# We the People

10¢

THOMPSON OF CENTRE
*In able hands, a burning issue.*
(See Page 14)

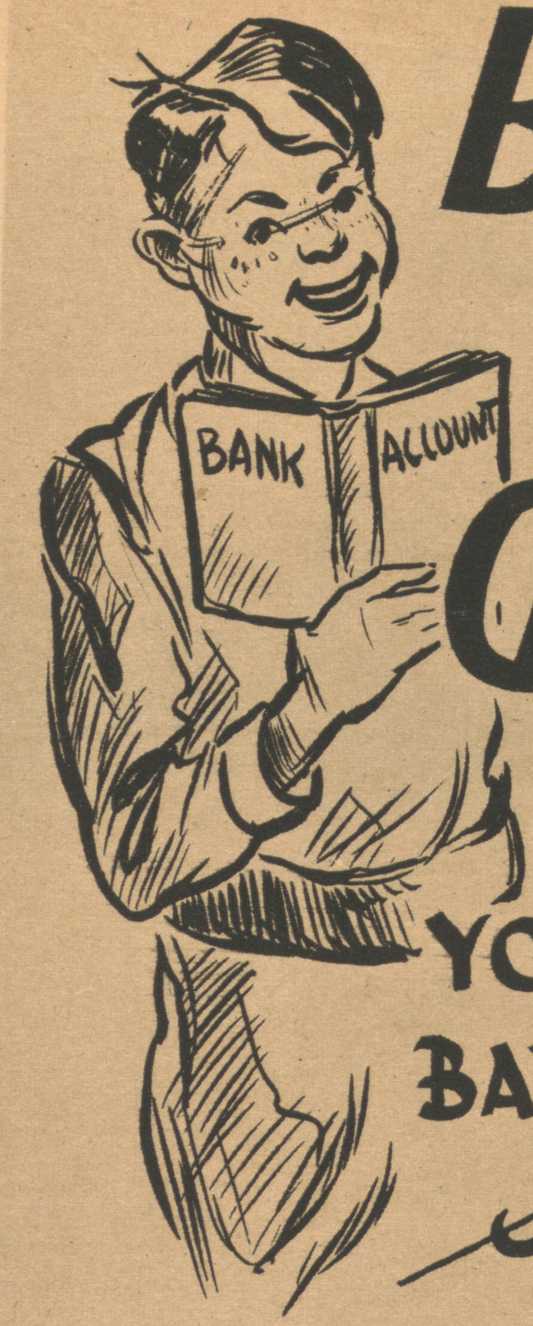
PUBLISHED FOR PENNSYLVANIANS

JANUARY 25, 1937

*In this Issue . . .*

## MURDER BY MOTOR

## PENNSYLVANIA IN REVIEW

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CIRCULATION MANAGER
WE THE PEOPLE
HARRISBURG, PA.


# LETTERS

### *Boss Fine*

To the Editors:

Being a regular reader of "We the People" and reading the same from cover to cover, because of getting the plain unvarnished truth—I was rather surprised at a major misstatement in January 11, 1937, issue—hence this letter to you so that you may correct an error.

Under the headlines Pennsylvania's Public (Be Damned) Service Commission the following is printed: I quote, "Commissioner Herman J. Goldberg was sponsored for his job on the commission by that very political Judge John Sidney Fine, Republican boss of Luzerne County."

The above article is rather in error—because of the fact that the BOSS of Luzerne County is Dr. Leo C. Mundy, the new State Senator elected Nov. 4, 1936—I know this to be the fact because I had the pleasure of operating the Advertone Sound Coach in Luzerne County for the Democratic Party during the month of October, 1936. The article referred to should have read BY THAT VERY POLITICAL JUDGE JOHN SIDNEY FINE—EX-REPUBLICAN BOSS OF LUZERNE COUNTY.

Trusting that due correction be made in next issue of We the People.

I am sincerely yours,
MAXWELL H. HITE,
Annotator Advertone Sound Coach.

Note: Permit me to state that your publication has improved greatly because it contains authentic Facts, Figures and Unvarnished TRUTHS. Keep the good publication active for the good of all Pennsylvanians.

Let Reader Hite mind his distinctions. Still **Republican** boss of Luzerne County is Judge Fine.—The Editors.

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### *Anti-Pollution*

To the Editors:

On page 6 of the January 4, 1937, issue of "We the People" under the "Democratic Balance Sheet," Governor Earle's promise is stated "I propose to curb stream pollution * * *," and under the heading "Redeemed and Unredeemed" it states "Little has been done to carry out the promise to curb stream pollution. Only eight prosecutions resulting in individual fines of $100 have been conducted in the past two years."

The Department of Health, under my administration, has been diligent to carry out Governor Earle's promise to the people. In this work we have been helped by President Roosevelt making Federal funds available to our municipalities through work relief projects under PWA, CWA, LWD and WPA.

We designated our Engineers as "health missionaries" to encourage municipal officials to make application for Federal aid and then to assist them in so doing.

As a result 50 smaller towns installed new sewerage systems, which provide for the sanitary disposal of the sewage of about 75,000 people. About 25 of these towns have less than 1000 inhabitants and so it would have been almost impossible for them to have built these sewers had it not been for the Federal money.

Twenty-six new sewage treatment works were built in the last two years, generally, but not always, in the smaller communities. The total population whose sewage is thus treated, is over 76,000.

There were many cases where substantial improvements were made to existing sewer systems and sewage treatment works generally with Federal aid.

In Western Pennsylvania the most widespread source of stream pollution is the acid water flowing from bituminous coal mines. As a work relief project of the Works Progress Administration jointly sponsored by the U. S. Public Health Service, with the Pennsylvania Department of Health its active agent, a complete reconnaisance survey locating all the abandoned mines was made.

During 1935, an average of 1700 laborers were working on the sealing of abandoned mines. Two hundred and fifty of them were completely sealed and work was being carried on during 1936 on 100 more mines. In rounded figures, 50,000 closures have been made in the last two years. Observations indicate that after three or four months of effective sealing, the acid load is reduced as much as 80 percent.

For the treatment of industrial wastes, Federal financial aid was not available and the cost has to be carried by the industrial concerns. Here, too, progress has been made.

About 12 treatment works were built at milk plants, two of them of ultra modern type. Several large slaughter houses and meat packing establishments made improvements in the treatment of their waste water. With the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, distilleries began operation and they produce very polluting wastes. Several important and large treatment works were installed and other smaller ones are either in actual operation or under construction. Noteworthy improvements have been made in reducing pollution from paper mills and at last during this administration, the large pulp mill at Johnsonburg is undertaking the installation of works for abating their pollution, which has long been the major source of spoilation of the Clarion River.

Of the 24 active leather tanneries in Pennsylvania discharging wastes to streams, five had treatment works in operation prior to our administration and during the last two years, nine installed major treatment works, four have such works under construction and five are preparing engineering plans for construction, leaving only one under investigation. Three of these tanneries are on the Clarion River and the treatment of those wastes will help toward redeeming that river.

Several textile mills and wood distillate plants have installed works to reduce their pollution. During the last two years, there have been no spills from Pennsylvania by-product coke ovens which several years ago used to be the cause of very offensive tastes and odors in public water supplies.

One of the very important activities of the Health Department is control of the drinking water served by public water works. These water supplies do not curb pollution, but it is worthy of note that during this administration, a distinct advance has been made in this important service which was largely due to Federal financial aid.

Thirty-five communities with an aggregate population of 35,000 now have piped public water supplies. They formerly depended upon private wells, so often subject to contamination. These small communities probably could not have provided a public water supply if they had had to finance the work themselves.

Nine new water filtration plants were built in places where filtration of the water had long been needed. About 37,000 people are now receiving filtered water that previously did not, while in two cases, material betterments were made improving the drinking water of 121,000 people. In four towns having a population of 24,000 material improvements were made to existing water works and 28 new chlorinators were installed, further protecting the drinking water of 33,000 people, while in 27 other communities, chlorination apparatus was improved.

Yours very truly,
EDITH MacBRIDE-DEXTER, M. D.,
Secretary of Health.

To Dr. MacBride-Dexter and her Department of Health, all credit due for good anti-pollution work done. But there still remain pollution factors for lack of the well-toothed anti-pollution bill killed by the late Senate. Typical of the careless attitude of former administrations on polluted streams and water supply was the famed sign in the toilet of a Clarion River hotel: "Don't Forget to Pull the Chain. Pittsburgh Needs the Water."—The Editors.

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### *3c Per Hour*

To the Editors:

Have been reading your paper with much interest and profit both before election and since.

Your pictures in the December 2 issue showing home workers receiving 3c an hour is certainly challenging and sickening.

Can you send me literature along this line to assist me in preparing a lecture? Are there stereopticon lectures on it?

Thankfully,
REV. W. E. VERITY.
Port Carbon, Pa.

Queries on this subject should be addressed to the Department of Labor & Industry; on this particular subject, to Gertrude R. Emery, able chief of the Bureau of Women & Children in that Department.—The Editors.

# We the People

"PENNSYLVANIA IN REVIEW"

WM. J. DOUGHERTY
*Business Manager*

EDWARD NOEL JONES
*Publisher*

REED McROBERTS
*Editor*

VOL. 2, No. 4 HARRISBURG, PA. JANUARY 25, 1937

# HELL . . .

This is not a pretty picture, but it is a true picture of the hell that lurks on any highway, waiting for someone to be careless. One moment you see a happy man, full of plans for work, bowling along the road in a beautiful sedan. The next moment—because someone was careless—the car is a blazing piece of twisted wreckage. And for its occupants, it is hell.

The newspaper account is precise—and meaningless: "John Doe died yesterday of severe burns sustained in an auto accident. In a collision his car plunged over an embankment and burst into flames."

This picture portrays graphically the hell this John Doe suffered—such agony that his only prayer through twisted lips was for the State patrolman at the scene to shoot him.

Remember this picture when you are tempted to take a chance—with your life or someone else's—on the highway. Turn to the next page, and to pages 12 & 13, for the story of "Murder by Motor."


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# Murder by Motor

PENNSYLVANIA has one-twelfth of the nation's automobiles operating over 100,000 miles of highways, many more of streets and roads. If all the accidents per year that happen in this State had been combined on one day, with one great scream of tires and one huge, rending, crashing, Judgment-Day sound of crumpled fenders, broken glass, buckled frames, the State's hospitals would be hard put to succor all the victims. For last year (from December 1, 1935, to December 1, 1936), with some 2,000,000 drivers in Pennsylvania, 84,399 persons were involved in 51,774 accidents.

The accidents meant injury to 47,447 of them.

To 1,998 others (including 75 infants four years old or younger), they meant —Death.

Murder by Motor has become this decade's form of mass homicide. War is a sissy compared to Murder by Motor. For War, one of Death's many partners, killed only 4,334 Pennsylvanians in action in 1917-19. But War is sporadic. Murder by Motor has muscled into its territory, a far more reliable partner with Death than shell or gas or shrapnel.

Usually July and August are the bloodiest traffic months on Pennsylvania highways, jammed with motoring vacationists and school-free children. But during the last 12-month period November topped them all with 233 dead and 4,681 injured —many of the accidents accounted for by the unseasonal weather and the large number of traveling football fans.

**Survey of Slaughter.** What causes all this slaughter, that set down in cold statistics is as impersonal as a business index, and in individual occurrence so haunting, gruesome, heart-clutching? The quick response of all safety experts is: "Speed." Undue speed, unsafe speed, causes nine out of every ten serious highway accidents. Here are the cause statistics of tragedy, great & small, during the December-to-December 12-month period, set down on the files of the Safety Division of the State Department of Revenue at Harrisburg:

| | |
|---|---|
| Too fast for conditions | 12,133 |
| On wrong side of road | 7,746 |
| Cutting in | 2,164 |
| Passing standing street car | 103 |
| Passing on curve | 213 |
| Passing on wrong side | 137 |
| Passing on hill | 250 |
| Passing at intersection | 792 |
| Failing to signal | 1,882 |
| Forced off road | 4,202 |
| Failing to stop on through street | 2,030 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,898 |

"Too fast for conditions" is the only item which in itself says "Speed." But speed is implicit in thousands of the other accidents, obvious behind the type of accident. Passing on a curve means speed. Passing on a hill crest means speed. Failing to stop at through streets saves seconds on earth—else saves all the years the driver might live before he went to his long sleep.

**Drunkenness.** Drunken driving is not listed as a specific cause, although 4,350 motorists were arrested on that charge in 1935. All safety men agree that drunken driving is an important contributing agent of Murder by Motor. They say that the number of persons arrested for being intoxicated behind the steering wheel is much larger than actually recorded. Reason: widespread is the practice of using political pull to have a drunken driving charge changed to one of reckless driving, commonly dismissed by magistrates with a $10 fine and a warning.

In Allegheny County, most fatal for motorists of any in the State, with 807 accidents in November (29 of them deadly), Traffic Engineer McNeil collected statistics on accidents occurring between midnight and 6 a. m. during the first six months of 1936. They showed that 11 persons were killed and 173 injured in 261 accidents. Said Traffic Engineer McNeil in his report: "Fifty percent of these drivers were claimed to have been under the influence of intoxicating liquor, but not all were pronounced drunk."

More than 1,300 of the operators involved in accidents during the 12-month period were listed in the Traffic Division's report as being "apparently intoxicated."

Stop this killing!

GOVERNOR GEORGE H. EARLE'S
Highway Safety Council
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
JOHN B. KELLY — Secretary of Revenue
Executive Vice Chairman

# 1,998 KILLED IN MOTOR SMASH

## MORE THAN 47,000 INJURED IN GREATEST CATASTROPHE SINCE WAR

## Highways Scene of Wholesale Slaughter

HARRISBURG, PA. — The greatest catastrophe in the history of the Commonwealth was enacted last year when 1,998 persons were killed on the highways of the State. This establishes an all-time record for killings, exceeded only by the number of dead in the World War.

The disaster occurred when 51,774 automobiles collided, sideswiped, ran off the road, turned over, or burst into flame. More than 800 pedestrians met their [illegible]

darkness and fog to confuse a driver into smashing into an approaching machine, or plunging off the highway. Unmarked bridges and culverts, often the same color as the roadways, are perfect targets for the not-too-wary automobile traveler. Unbanked curves, or improperly banked ones; jutting hillsides; treacherous surfaces; all are contributing causes to the blood spilling that goes on daily all over the State.

**Patrols & Safety.** There are 642 Highway patrolmen in the State. S. Weston Scott, State safety director, believes this number should be increased to 1,000. The patrolmen now cruise the highways on motorcycles. Scott advocates the substitution of automobiles, as is the practice in other states, recommends that they be equipped with radios, first aid supplies, stretchers, fire extinguishers.

Proof of the effectiveness of patrolling and law enforcement as a means of preventing accidents was established last summer by an experiment conducted by the Highway Patrol on a 100-mile stretch of the Lincoln Highway, between Devon and Harrisburg, where accidents had been particularly heavy.

A detachment of 15 patrolmen was assigned to the stretch for 24-hour duty for two weeks. They made about 175 arrests, mostly for speeding, although motorists were allowed a 10-mile-an-hour leeway over the State limit of 40 miles an hour.

Two days after the safety campaign started there was decided care manifested by drivers along the route. The normal accident total was cut in half during the first week, and accidents were practically eliminated during the second week.

There are 7,631 official inspection stations in the state that in the last campaign, completed June 15, passed on the conditions of 1,754,207 machines, required adjustments on all but 3.3 percent.

The Division of Safety holds between 10,000 and 14,000 hearings annually, may

**Other Causes.** By far the greatest fault of the operator, according to the report, was "inattentiveness," with almost 15,000 of those who smashed up being listed under this heading.

Some 700 admitted being asleep at the time of the accident; 256 proved to have physical defects; 3,135 admitted they were confused, and 2,914 pleaded that their view was obstructed.

Almost 90 percent of the cars involved in accidents were found to be in apparently good condition. The most common mechanical cause was lack of chains on slippery streets; the second most common was defective brakes.

Other faulty conditions of this type include: defective steering gear, glaring headlights, travelling with insufficient lights or none at all, punctures or blowouts.

Left turns precipitate almost three times as many accidents as do right turns, the totals show: left, 6,305; right, 2181.

The most common scene of a crash is a street intersection. Next comes an open stretch on the highway; third, between street intersections.

Ninety percent of all the accidents occurred in clear weather. Of the remaining total, seven percent occurred in rain, two percent in snow, one percent in fog.

Most popular day for accidents is Saturday. Next comes Sunday. Wednesday brings the fewest number of accidents. Most popular hour is 4 to 5 p. m.; next, 5 to 6 p. m.

**Pedestrians.** In Connecticut a survey made during the first six months of last year showed that liquor-dazed pedestrians are a more common cause of accidents than are drinking or drunken drivers. Reason: while a sober person may often talk an inebriate out of driving, little control is exercised over the drunk when he is staggering afoot.

Collisions with motor vehicles make up considerably more than half of the total number of auto accidents in the State. The next largest group in this classification, about one-fifth of the total, is the peculiar record of that peculiarly modern phenomenon, the pedestrian. (Peculiarly modern because, save in countries where the horse is a condition of life, walking has never been considered a dangerous sport.)

The pedestrian should remember that to stay a pedestrian requires application of common sense. Of the 11,417 pedestrian victims of accidents in 1936, only 139 were struck down while crossing at an intersection where there were signals. Comparatively, the center of a block is an invitation to Death. Two thousand seven hundred and twenty-two pedestrians met him when they started to cross a street between intersections. The next most dangerous practice of pedestrians was to pop out from behind a parked car—2,091 invited the injuries that came to them doing that. The third most serious cause of accidents to pedestrians was the practice of walking or playing in the street. Score: 1,183 collisions.

Of pedestrians on rural roads sensible enough to walk facing oncoming traffic, only 301 were struck down. Of those who chose to walk with their backs toward traffic, 561 were hit.

More than half of the victims afoot admitted that they were inattentive; 1,000 were "apparently intoxicated"; about 1,500 said that they were confused.

**Highway Conditions.** Though no statistics are available on the subject, safety officials admit that bad engineering conditions along the highways contribute to many an accident. Crowned roads, for instance, often cause a motorist to drive in the middle of the highway or on the left side. Insufficient middle lines allow

JOURNEY'S END

*This is what happened because someone was careless.*

suspend or revoke licenses for any infraction of the motor laws. A notice from a court clerk certifying that a driver has been convicted of drunken driving, operating a vehicle under a false name, or committing any felony in connection with the operation of a car is enough to bring automatic revocation.

Of 372 revocations during November, the charge in 154 cases was intoxication. In 20 other cases, intoxication was part of the charge.

**Insurance.** When a driver is so penalized, he cannot regain his license until he has taken out for three years a special operator's insurance policy, $5,000 liability for injury or death to one person, $10,000 for two persons, $1,000 property damage.

Although at present no State in the Union has general compulsory insurance for drivers, many Pennsylvania legislators are considering the possibility of a bill to put it into effect in the Commonwealth. Insurance companies, however, are not too eager to see it adopted, since under such a system they would be forced to accept many a driver who is an undesirable risk.

A new accident cause that has lately come in for considerable attention in Pennsylvania is carbon monoxide, deadly undetectable gas that may filter into a closed car or a truck cab from a faulty motor.

Safety experts believe that wisps of the gas may account for the drowsiness in drivers that precedes many a crash. The highway patrol is considering the conducting of State-wide tests of machines with a newly-devised instrument for measuring the carbon monoxide content of the atmosphere.

**Age.** Though legislators are considering the raising of the age requirment of licensed drivers in the state from 16 to 18, safety experts are not back of the move, since they believe that the yonger driver is often more alert, more reliable in a tight situation than is an older person. Younger-than-18 drivers were involved in only 1,730 of the accidents that occurred during the 12-month period preceding December 1.

The fact that motorists are not keeping step with the improvements being made in the machines they drive is evidenced by statistics on accidents in 1935 as compared with those ten years before.

In 1925 there were 20,000,000 automobiles in the nation, and in 1935 there were 26,150,000, a rise of 31%. In 1925 there were 21,620 deaths from automobiles and 10 years later there were 36,100, a rise of 67%.

Of the total 1935 fatalities, 31.1 percent were caused by speeders, 17.1 by autoists on the wrong side of the road, 15.1 by violations of the right of way, 14.1 by careless or intoxicated drivers going off the road, 13.1 percent by reckless drivers.

**The Governor's Highway Safety Council** advocates the establishment in every community of a Citizens Traffic Committee to work with public officials and civic groups in routing the death menace from the roadside.

Basis of the campaign is a four-point plan involving collection of accident facts, education of the public to the hazards of driving, enforcement of traffic laws, correction of engineering evils.

In cities where the police have an accident investigation squad, the committee co-operates with the squad, using the collected data to fill out accident spot maps, location files, tallies and summaries, records of chronically dangerous drivers. In smaller communities, fact-finding duties of the committee are more difficult, though recording is simplified by maps and forms supplied by the National Safety Council.

Through newspapers, club and school talks, radio broadcasts and other forms of publicity, the committee drives home the idea of tragedies potential in every car, bargains for future safety by emphasizing past horrors.

Aim of the enforcement division of the committee is certainty of penalty for violators rather than severity. Recommended are: founding of an accident prevention bureau, a selective law enforcement program, abolition of ticket fixing, cooperation of the courts, modern traffic regulations.

Information provided the local committees by the Governor's Council includes the warning that unless 90 percent of the total apprehended for violations do not receive some kind of conviction, enforcement will be below standard, with a resultant above-standard number of accidents in the community.

Theory of the safety campaigners is that one accident investigation squad car, equipped with camera, first aid kit, and report forms, should be operating for every 1,000 to 1,500 accidents.

Evidence secured by crews manning the cars is used in obtaining convictions, remedying highway conditions that prove to be accident causes.

Efforts of the engineering division of the committee are directed at the installation of lights, blinkers, signs and other safety devices at danger spots, the establishing of proper parking regulations, removal of highway hazards.

Available to such committees are thousands of books and booklets on safety for readers of all ages, moving pictures that preach safety, lantern slides, charts, statistics, maps, posters and booklets that have been assembled by safety organizations all over the nation in frantic attempts to stop the carnage that grows more threatening every year.

Shocking is the fact that while these bulwarks against murder by motor in Pennsylvania were being erected the death toll during November of last year leaped 70.1 per cent over that during the same month in 1935. Accidents rose 44.1 percent, and collisions of automobiles and railroad trains geysered to a total 53.6 percent higher than that for the previous year.

After giving these figures, along with others, the drafter of the monthly report of the Bureau of Highway Patrol and Safety announces his conclusions, which in their final words, seem to sum up the entire story of murder by motor:

"An analysis of report filed this month shows that the greatest increase, when we consider the road location, has been at street intersections in cities. We have also taken particular notice to the fact that the violation, 'Passing at Intersection', has increased at a relatively higher rate than all other law infractions.

*"These two facts go hand in hand to prove that the causes of accidents are due chiefly to carelessness or wilfull recklessness on the part of the operator".*

# A PANEL OF CARELESSNESS

# HELL HOLES OF Pennsylvania

IN THE bowels of the earth beneath the Summit Hill Basin near Coaldale a tiny flame flickered sucked in the oxygen from the dark, dank air and began to spread over the rich field of anthracite that took nature fifty millions years to form.

At the time this occurred, Abraham Lincoln sat in the White House, the memory of Napoleon still glowed in the mind of the world, the telegraph was yet a novelty, the first armor-plated gunboats were used in war, and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was collecting the fingerprints of the nation.

Today, almost eighty years later, the fire that struggled into being in the deep recesses of that Summit Hill mine still burns despite the expenditure of some $2,347,000 in attempts to extinguish it, with thousands of tons of the precious mineral having drifted to the earth's surface, converted by the flame into the elements from which it was originally formed

Threats to the lives, health and property of residents of Pennsylvania's coal centers are similar hell holes that smoulder until they are subdued or burn themselves out, often only after they have blazed for decades, undermining roads, sickening communities with the noxious fumes they release into the atmosphere.

Many start from spontaneous combustion, some from a gas explosion, others from the careless handling of a lamp in the pit.

In the bituminous area the mine fires are more numerous than in the anthracite section, since soft coal is more combustible and is usually found closer to the surface where an accidental fire is more likely to occur and more difficult to extinguish.

Within the city limits of Pittsburgh there are at least eight mines ablaze, and in the area surrounding the city there are eighteen more in which fires are known to be active.

In fighting a fire in the McShane Mine in the twenty-eighth ward in Pittsburgh, $66,200 has been spent in the course of ten years, but the flames are still devouring the coal.

An underground conflagration in a mine at Arlington Avenue and Foley Street in the same city has already taken one life and is still burning. Another in the thirty-first ward of Pittsburgh has two fatalities to its record.

Beneath the Hill District, slum section in the heart of Pittsburgh, a fire has been reported that through the winter provided welcome heat for a number of homes, free from the poisonous gas that evidently was being cast off at another opening in the mine.

As with every fuel, coal not completely burnt generates carbon monoxide, that deadly invisible destroyer that annually traps many a housewife hovering over a defective stove, many a motorist unwary enough to leave his car running in an unventilated garage.

Dangerous in quantities of only one tenth of one per cent of the atmosphere, carbon monoxide has trapped numerous reckless miners who attempted to work a pit in which a fire was burning.

Three years ago a blaze creeping through a mine near Connellsville so contaminated the air that many persons living in the neighborhood were hospitalized and homes were abandoned until the fire was controlled.

Flames still smouldering today in the Old Hill Farm Mine near Uniontown have accounted for 48 lives in the 46 years it has been burning. The blaze started in 1890 when a miner with an open light set off gas accumulated at a bore hole causing an explosion that killed 34 men.

Eating its way through the hillside, the fire crept into an adjoining mine, setting off another explosion 30 years ago in which 14 lives were lost.

Financial losses to mine operators are staggering, as may be judged by the $5,000,000 value placed by officials of the Glen Alden Coal Company on the coal consumed by a fire that started in 1919 in their Continental Colliery near Scranton.

The same company estimates that another fire that broke out in 1914 in its National Colliery cost $2,000,000, and that a third that started in 1921 in the Sloan-Central Colliery cost the same amount. All these fires are either active or slumbering.

Operators of the Alaska Colliery and Sioux Number Three Mine in the vicinity of Mt. Carmel have spent around half a million dollars in attempts to extinguish the flames in their tunnels, but the fires still burn.

Eight other hell holes in the same region have cost an estimated total of $412,390, most of which was spent in the past eight years. A number of them have resisted all attempts to subdue them.

There are several effective ways of combatting mine fires, but so elusive are the movements of a subterranean blaze that no certain means of extinguishing it has yet been devised, particularly when it exists near the surface.

The most common defense against a spreading fire has been sealing the mine entrance and all openings, so that the flames may smother themselves by consuming all the oxygen in the tunnel.

When cracks in the earth between the mine ceiling and the surface are so numerous as to defy sealing, this method is ruled out. It was also rendered impractical during depression years by unemployed men who often broke into sealed mines, risking death and illness to mine the coal.

HELL UNDERGROUND

*One mine fire killed 34 when it began with an explosion; has since killed 14.*

Flooding the mine is another means of battling a spreading blaze, but this method of attack is limited to mines in which the fire is confined to a small area that may be completely inundated at a cost low enough to make the work practical. It is also impractical when the fire is only a few feet underground and is working its way upward and over the earth's surface.

By digging around a fire, the blazing area may be isolated so that it will burn itself out, leaving the rest of the coal bed untouched.

Crop fires—those that smoulder in coal veins that run even with the earth's surface—are sometimes smothered with dirt.

Owners of mines that catch fire are required to make a report to the inspector from the State Bureau of Mines in their district, who is then required to supervise extinguishing attempts, guarding against loss of life or damage to adjoining property.

The operator is not bound to put out the flames, and may abandon the mine to its fate if he feels that it is not worth the money is would cost to save it.

Though he has never gone beyond considering it as a theory, Deputy Secretary Joseph J. Walsh, of the Bureau of Mines, believes that he knows a sure way of extinguishing most mine fires.

In simple summary his theory is this:

Erect a furnace near the entrance to the burning mine. Burn coal in the furnace and from its chimney capture the inert gases that escape from the fuel. Cool these through a watering process and then force them into the mine tunnel.

The gases, such as nitrogen, will not support combustion and will therefore smother the flames. Since they are heavier than air, the gases will force the air, with its fire-feeding oxygen, out through openings that may exist in the mine ceiling.

Having been cooled, the inert gases will lower the temperature within the mine to prevent the flames from breaking out again through spontaneous combustion—and the store of black diamonds will be saved from the hearth and the boiler.

Some day Mr. Walsh hopes to see his theory put into practice. But until he or someone else contrives a method of routing the red devil that blazes night and day in so many hell holes throughout Pennsylvania, millions of dollars worth of the precious black mineral will continue to go up in smoke, and death will continue to lie in wait for the occasional adventurer who wanders into the flaming pits.

# Letters FROM PENNSYLVANIA HUNTERS

EDITED BY Charles Fox...

To the Editors:

**I would like to do some winter shooting. Crows seem to be about the only available game, but they're too smart for me. How can I get close enough to shoot?—R. H., Butler.**

There is an art to crow hunting. To be able consistently to bag these rascals, their habits must be studied. In the last few years, many a hunter has learned that the early months of the year are not barren as far as outdoor recreation is concerned—not as long as Jim Crow is as abundant as he is at present. Here is a sport in which the gunner matches wits with an unusually wily quarry. A crow has very keen eyesight and he is cunning, but he can be fooled and fooled badly.

The most important and the most interesting part of the hunter's equipment is his crow call. Now there are crow calls and crow calls. Some work well while others just don't seem to have the right accent, brogue or whatever it is. One particular crow call which we have frequently heard in action really has what it takes. It is constructed of cedar and does not readily become water logged, if you get what we mean, and it is made with a metal reed.

It is utterly impossible to spell in letters the cries in the crow vocabulary but there are several and they have different meanings. Everyone has heard the old sentry crow sound his fast, shrill "alarm call" to the feeding flock, and everyone has seen the flock immediately take heed and fly away. This call when translated into "English" means scram, and it is the one which the hunter must not sound.

The first call which the hunter should make is the one which says, "Over here it is, boys." This call is rather clear and smooth and does not have such an excited tone. This should be made about every fifteen seconds and it will sometimes be answered. When you know that you have made yourself heard with the "over here" call, follow it up with the "battle cry." The latter is high pitched excitable jabber which is harsh and raspy. It should be sounded a great deal, even between shots.

Calling is a matter of practice, and experience as usual is the best teacher. One enthusiast of the writer's acquaintance diligently practiced his calls while on deer drives during the past buck season.

It is difficult to keep out of sight of the crows, but this is necessary if success is to be enjoyed. A corn shock blind in a corn field works well, or an evergreen tree in the woods serves the purpose. If you are once recognized, a crow will sound the alarm and all will fly away.

**Decoys.** To guarantee maximum action and success a decoy should be used. Some crow hunter has commercialized a clever ruse. There seems to be nothing in the world which affords crows more genuine pleasure than to torment owls. This hunter devised a stuffed canvas owl which has wings that will flap when a cord is pulled. Once this decoy is sighted Jim Crow throws caution to the wind and caws and swoops and darts at the hapless captive. When this method is used it is best to permit a number of crows to congregate before the shooting begins.

An ordinary stuffed hawk or owl hoisted into a tree brings results. So does a cat in a cage. The easiest way to get such a thing into a tree is to attach to it a long rope with a stone tied on the end. Throw the rope over a limb and pull up the decoy. Crows which have had a wing broken can be kept alive and some make good decoys while others are a detriment because they sound the alarm call. Now and then one is secured which seems to desire company and calls fellow crows to him. Such a bird located at a strategic place near a good blind makes the perfect combination.

Crows congregate in flocks and in woods. If a good roost is located really fast shooting can be had on a moonlight night. These black fellows make a good target against the light sky. Out West thousands are wiped out at one time by one blast. A tree in a woods is heavily loaded with dynamite. A number of drivers go out at night and slowly drive a great many crows from all directions onto the loaded tree. So many are killed when the charge is set off that farmers haul them away in wagons to fertilize their fields.

**Crows Fly South.** Strange as it may seem to some, crows fly South for the winter. Those which hatched in Pennsylvania are away down in Dixie now and those which are in this State for the winter probably came from Canada. But these Canadian crows are bad actors indeed. Their principal pastime and means of livelihood in the vast lake regions of Canada during the early summer months is the stealing of eggs from the nests of waterfowl.

**Crows and Game.** In the past crows have not caught full grown rabbits, quail and grouse as is done by most of the hawks. It may sound a bit foolish or fantastic now, but nevertheless, it is not utterly impossible that the time might come when this will be done. If crows continue to increase in numbers and their food supply becomes inadequate they might turn on the small game. They are smart, and strong, and quick, and it would be no physical impossibility for them to master our upland game.

Naturally they can be shot at any season of the year, but the most productive and fascinating time is in the winter when they are present in great quantities. It is recommended that those who enjoy eating rattlesnake steak, muskrats, and opossums, try some roast crow sometime; probably it will be heartily enjoyed.

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To the Editors:

**Can you give me any pointers on the best way of feeding wild life in winter? I want to do my part to keep our game alive.—H. W., Bradford.**

Careful selection of the location of feeding stations is important. The food must be taken where the game is located; random feeding does not bring satisfactory results. The ideal set-up is a natural feeder but one can not always be found and an artificial shelter must be constructed.

**Shelter.** A small game shelter should be made so that it will serve a number of purposes. The construction must be such that the food will not become buried in the snow, that is, it must be some sort of protection with a roof, such as a lean-to or rustic table. Strong north and south winds should be broken, for all game hates wind. There should be openings here and there so the game may escape in case of attack by an enemy. Then there should be some sort of a container which holds the food and slowly delivers it to the game. This is commonly called a hopper.

Brush, pieces of bark, corn fodder or tar paper make excellent roofs. Crows are afraid to go under such a structure so it is possible to keep food away from them. If there is no overhead covering the crows will get most of the loosely scattered grain. Often it is possible to raise a brush pile so that it is well hollowed out underneath. This is very effective.

**The hopper** is as important as the feeder. This convenient container greatly simplifies the feeding operation. A good practical, yet simple, device can be made from an old piece of spouting. Cut off a section about four feet in length. On a side at one of the ends a triangular hole about two inches long should be made. This is the bottom of the hopper which stands perpendicular to the ground. Grain, seeds and grit are poured into the spouting. This food works out of the hole at the bottom. As birds devour it more falls through the opening. If rain and snow get into the food, it will freeze, clogging up the hopper. To prevent this an empty can should be placed over the top. The hopper should pass through the top of the shelter, thus being held in place, and the bottom part can rest on a rock, a board or the ground. It is usually not necessary to refill the hopper more than once every ten days. The best foods are scratch corn, wheat, oats, sunflower, in fact almost any kind of seeds and grit. Hay and grain are excellent for rabbits.

Shelters should be constructed before the winter snows set in so the game will know where to go when conditions become bad. It takes a little time for the wild life to become accustomed to new shelters and bright wooden or metal hoppers.

A group from a live wire sportsmen's association in Southern Pennsylvania cared for some fox squirrels last winter by feeding them corn on the cob in the following manner. A piece of wire several feet in length was threaded through the center of an ear of corn. The ear was then wired around the trunk of a den tree. In this way the squirrels could easily get it, but the crows had considerable trouble picking at the ears.

An excellent feeder for wild turkeys is a wire basket attached to a tree. The mesh should be one and one quarter inches and the bottom of the basket should be about a foot and one half above the ground. Turkeys have a tough time of it if there is a scarcity of acorns and heavy snowfall.

**Feeding Deer.** Deer are sometimes hard to feed although they are easily located by their tracks. They are browsers by nature, eating leaves, moss, grass, and the ends of briars. A mountaineer, who did all in his power to help the deer herd around his home in Clinton County last winter, experienced this. When corn fooder was distributed the hungry deer would not eat it unless it was standing up in shocks. The hay he put out was consumed but there was a marked preference for that which had not been touched by human hands. During the winter the deer had eaten all the hanging leaves within their reach, and a definite line could be seen on the trees. As an emergency step, which proved to be effective, this man went through his land and every here and there he cut down a beech tree with the dead foliage on it.

The most critical weeks for game are those last ones of winter when the food supply is well nigh exhausted. It is important that the game is taken care of at that time so that it is not debilitated at the start of the breeding season which follows.

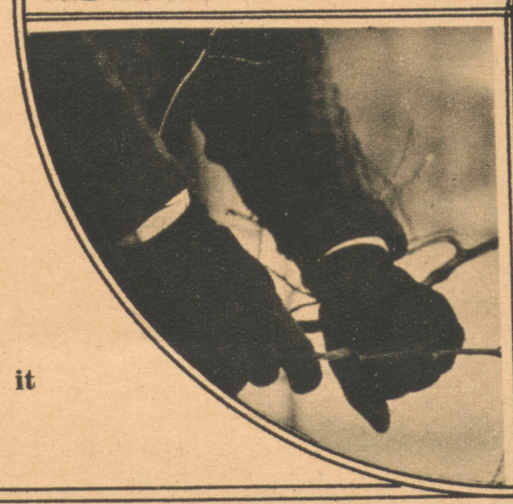
# Winter FEEDING

Squirrels loosen the ears for grouse and turkeys.

For amateur game wardens this page offers a number of suggestions on the problem of winter feeding. Corn, oats, sunflower seeds, other grains, will help keep birds and squirrels alive. Deer are natural browsers, but will eat hay if it has not been handled over-much. One method of feeding deer is to lop down a few beech trees carrying dead leaves. The illustrations on this page show simple hoppers, food shelters and real "food baskets" for Pennsylvania's important natural resource—her native game, which affords pleasure to thousands of Pennsylvanians, and brings good business into the State.

A simple shelter may be constructed of brush.

Right (above) A section of pipe may be used for a simple hopper.



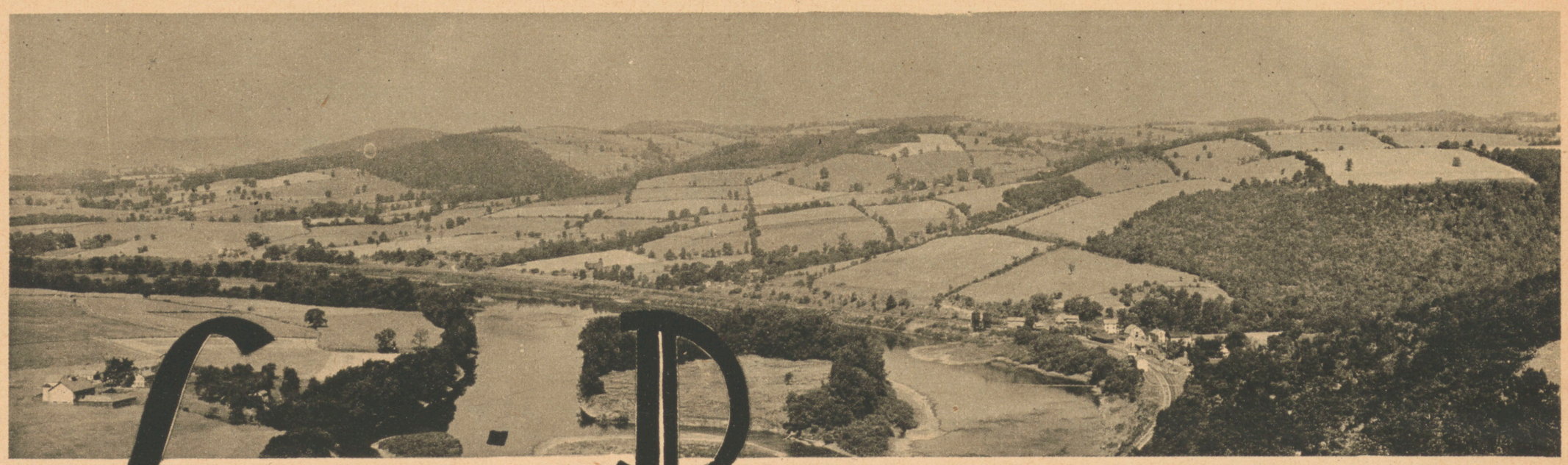
Right (below) Break twigs to impale an ear of corn on them.

Right—Here is the corn as it looks on the twigs.

These men impaled ears of corn on nails.

This feed crib has been made out of saplings.

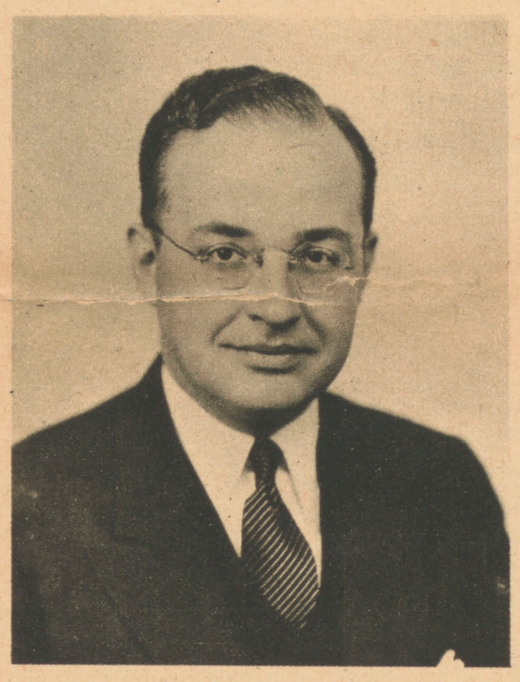
These Monessen Boy Scouts built a feeding shelter.



# Scenic Pennsylvania

FAMILIAR to every magazine reader are ads inviting one & all to enjoy winter sports amid the snowy hills of Vermont, summer fun & comfort in the woodland recesses of the State of Maine. Traditionally thrifty New Englanders know the value of tourist trade, spend plenty to get their share of it.

Pioneer in state advertising was Vermont which in 1911 set aside



SCENIC COMMISSION'S SCHARF
*He wore a path in the Capitol corridors.*

$5,000 to exploit its attractions, raised it gradually until the sum reached $36,000 last year. In quick succession Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut took up the idea. Today all are joined in the New England Council which spent $100,000 during 1935 for newspaper and magazine space telling of the pleasures and wonders within their boundaries.

New York alone spends that much in a year for the same purpose. So does Massachusetts. The Michigan Legislature is to pass on a bill asking $400,000 for state advertising during the next two years. Recently this State joined the parade. One of the first bills presented at this year's session at Harrisburg asked an appropriation of half a million dollars to carry out the same work in Pennsylvania.

Behind the bill, presented by Senator Glen R. Law of Mercer County, are hotelmen, gas and oil interests and automobile groups who have fought for it for years, and who got their first break last February when Governor Earle created a commission to advertise the state.

Given the uninteresting title of Pennsylvania Scenic and Historic Commission, the agency was voted $20,000 by the Legislature for two years work, forbidden to use any of it to buy newspaper or magazine space.

If the requested appropriation goes through, as it appears it will, a high-powered campaign to "sell Pennsylvania" will be loosed, employing every effective advertising medium in a drive to draw new tourists inside the boundaries of the Commonwealth, detain for a time those who would otherwise pass right through into adjoining states.

To Highways Secretary Warren Van Dyke the Commission is a promising infant that with proper care may grow to be a substantial member of the State's income-providing family.

Ex-officio Member Van Dyke has for long been interested in the establishment of a State publicity bureau, sees in it a means of upping the State's gas tax revenue, watches its activities with a careful eye. To him the $500,000 appropriation for the commission seems a likely investment to bring returns many times over that amount.

Leading proponent of the idea for many years past has been Henry M. Scharf, former president of the Pennsylvania Hotel Association. Convinced of its value through contact with hotelmen from other states where it had been adopted, Scharf wore a path in the Capitol corridors at Harrisburg trying to sell his plan, breathed a sigh of relief when he got a cordial reception from the new administration.

Scharf is on the commission, as is Ernest G. Smith, Wilkes-Barre publisher, aptly chosen for his ardent interest in the history of Pennsylvania. Other members are Secretary of Forests and Waters James F. Bogardus; Historical Commission Chairman Frank W. Melvin; Episcopal Bishop Wyatt Brown of Harrisburg, and Edward S. Gable of Lancaster, president of the Pennsylvania Motor Association.

Executive secretary of the commission is $3,000-a-year Orson N. Ritzman, former Berks County newspaperman, whose present duties are mailing stories and pictures of Pennsylvania feature spots to the papers of the state and enlisting the support of local groups in publicizing interesting points in their district.

Striking example of the golden gusher that a publicity drive may release are the results obtained by the Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce last year in exploiting nearby Pine Creek Gorge in Harrison State Park. With a few hundred dollars provided by the C. of C., its secretary, aggressive Larry Woodin, launched a campaign that brought approximately 300,000 tourists to the gorge in 1936 as compared to the 10,000 annual average of visitors to this Tioga County spot for previous years.

Woodin gave the beauty spot a new name, "Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon," flooded the city rooms of the state with interesting information about it and sent pretty girls and college boys all over the east to spread the story of the scenic wonders to be found near Wellsboro.

A foresighted bus line provided free transportation, while the traveling publicity troupe called at city halls all over the east to present invitations to mayors as news cameras clicked.

Dividends came in quickly. Wellsboro's hotel leapt out of the red. A gas station with a previous high of 40 gallons a day zoomed up to a new high of 4,400 gallons ($176 in state taxes), and new jobs were created by the score.

Similar localized campaigns are carried on in a number of communities throughout the State, as in Monroe County where the Chamber of Commerce spends $50,000 a year to advertise the beauties of the Pocono Mountains.

With places in the state, such as Gettysburg and Valley Forge, to which chapters are devoted in American history, with scenic wonders and vacation spots of surpassing beauty, with industrial and agricultural sections unrivalled on the earth's surface, the Commonwealth has hundreds of attractions that might well merit adoption of the motto "See Pennsylvania First."

If & when the Legislature sees fit, the seeds of that idea will be scattered to the four winds with the hope that the harvest to be reaped will richly justify the sowing.

IN PIKE COUNTY
*This waterfall makes music in Childs Park.*

ON THE YOUGHIOGHENY
*Mountain, river and forest are typical of Pennsylvania landscape.*

ON BEAR LAKE
*These quiet waters sleep in Luzerne County.*

# "PENNSYLVANIA IN REVIEW"

## THE GOVERNOR

*On to Washington*

To George Howard Earle and his auburn-haired wife, Huberta Potter Earle, last week came a double occasion for jollification. By fortunate coincidence, inauguration day at Washington marked the twenty-first wedding anniversary of the first couple of the State, allowed Pennsylvania visitors to the capital to fete them on inauguration eve in Washington's lavish Carlton Hotel—where they went after the Governor had lashed utilities for hugh rural electrification rates *(see Page 20)*.

To assembled well-wishers Earle gave thanks in an informal speech, news because of his guarded reference to his chance for the 1940 presidential nomination as a "long shot."

To horse-loving, sport-minded George Earle a long shot is often a good bet. And after riding next day down rain-drenched historic Pennsylvania Avenue in the only open car in the inaugural parade this particular long shot must have seemed an even better bet.

For along the parade route the smiling governor heard such sweet music as chorused shouts of "Earle for President", "Your turn in 1940, George", as his car, driven by a State Trooper, and shared by Democratic State Chairman David L. Lawrence, progressed slowly toward the inauguration site.

There he sat on the wind-swept stand while President Roosevelt took the oath of office, remained to have his imagination irrepressibly stirred to a moment four years hence by the forward-looking slant of the returned President's speech:

"Nearly all of us recognize that as intricacies of human relationships increase, so power to govern them also must increase—power to stop evil; power to do good . . .

"We are moving toward an era of good feeling . . . We are determined to make every American citizen the subject of his country's concern; and we will never regard any faithful law-abiding group within our borders as superfluous.

"If I know aught of the spirit and purpose of our Nation, we will carry on . . . In our personal ambitions we are individualists. But in our seeking for economic and political progress as a nation, we all go up or else we all go down, as one people . . .

"In taking again the oath of office as President of the United States, I assume the solemn obligation of leading the American people forward along the road over which they have chosen to advance."

Ceremonies over, the Governor returned to the hotel, rejoined there Mrs. Earle, who had attended the inauguration in a closed car. Then they set out that evening to pick up where they had left off in their social schedule that included a tea at the White House given by the President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

Next day, while other inauguration visitors turned homeward, Earle remained behind to confer with Federal Housing officials on Pennsylvania housing problems, solution of which he said will be one of the major points in the second half of his administration.

## CABINET

*Harr to* Record?

When in 1928 Julius David Stern bought the puny Philadelphia *Record*, that sheet's circulation was only 113,000. One of the things enterprising Dave Stern did was to get a brilliant young University of Pennsylvania professor to help develop the *Record's* editorial policy on national finance and credit. Thus Dave Stern beat the New Deal which he supported by two years in getting a professorial brain trust; in turn, Advisor Luther Arthur Harr was

PUBLISHER HARR?
*He gave the* Record *a 2-year scoop on gold.*

PUBLISHER STERN
*Formula: shots-in-the-arm, sensationalizing security.*

able to give the *Record* a 2-year scoop when, in 1931, he predicted in its columns that the U. S. would have to go off the gold standard.

Since those days many things have happened. The liberal *Record*, with the State's liveliest editorial page, has boomed circulation up to more than 300,000. Meantime Roosevelt, then the Earle-Guffey campaign, brought New Deal to the U. S. and to Pennsylvania. Dave Stern, a potent behind-the-scenes figure at Harrisburg, put Mr. Harr—who by then had become the *Record's* treasurer—in as Secretary of Banking under the Earle Administration.

Last week the best authenticated rumor-of-the-week on Capitol Hill was that Secretary Harr would return to Philadelphia, quitting his Cabinet job to become publisher of Friend Stern's *Record*.

Forty-year-old Luther Arthur Harr was born in Philadelphia's placid Germantown near the house where he now lives. From Penn Charter School, where he graduated in 1914, he entered the University of Pennsylvania, where he got his A. B. in 1918. (During the War he was a statistical worker with the Ordnance Department in Washington. He also attended the Officers' Training School at Fort Niagara.) With his A. B. safely stowed away, Luther Harr started working for his graduate degrees in Penn's Wharton School, meantime teaching in the college. In 1920 he got his Master's; in 1924, he became a Doctor of Philosophy. By the next year he was an assistant professor in finance at Wharton School; in 1929, he became a full professor.

Even before Luther Harr began teaching only one 3-hour course in advanced finance at Wharton School, by then merely a sideline to his duties as *Record* treasurer and advisor for other Stern papers, he dabbled in many things besides teaching. One year the University gave him leave of absence to study England's banking system. In 1931 he was consultant for the Atlantic City Clearing House, and deputy receiver for the Wharton Title & Trust Co. In 1933 he directed reorganization of three Atlantic City banks—the Bankers Trust, Equitable Trust, and Guarantee Trust. In November, 1934, Governor-elect Earle made him a member of the 4-man Tax Survey Committee.

At first assistant deputy secretary, in charge of reorganizing closed banks, Harr, under Governor Earle, became Secretary of Banking at $10,000. Thus did his parthenogenesis from an Independent (but Union League Clubmember) Republican into a New Dealer become complete. It was the logical step for a man who had whooped for abandoning the gold standard, who had called the U. S.'s banking system the worst in the world.

Tall, husky Dr. Harr played on Penn's freshman football squad, had his gridiron career ended by an injury. Still indulging in fast handball at the Penn A. C., he prefers attending concerts, getting home to his family of Mrs. Harr (Catherine Cressman of Sellersville) and Luther Jr., 17-year-old Penn Charter student, and Virginia Ann, 8. His textbooks *(Open End Public Utility Mortgages, Branch Banking in England, Banking Theory & Practice)* keep his fame green at Penn.

**Stern.** Portent behind the rumored Harr move is another politico-journalistic adventure for a man whose background closely resembles Harr's own, whose career mirrors William Randolph Hearst's—in reverse. Julius David Stern, who never uses his first name, is the phenomenon of modern journalism. Descendant of solid Jewish-German ancestors who made their money in manufacturing, 50-year-old Dave Stern went to Penn Charter too, then to Penn, then to the University of Berlin. For his family, but without interest, he acquired a law degree. Then, with the same curiosity that led Undergraduate Hearst to inspect the workings of newspapers, Graduate Stern became Philadelphia's most roving reporter. Leaping from one paper and one job to the next, he spent his spare time in the press and composing rooms. In 1911 Stern bought his first paper and began using his formula.

The formula: to buy a run-down paper, whoop its circulation with quick, promotional shots-in-the-arm. His first attempt was his only failure. He retreated after a few months' optional ownership of the Providence (R. I.) *News*. In 1912 he bought the New Brunswick *Times*. Profit when he sold it after two delirious years that staid New Brunswick residents still talk about: $15,000. He repeated with the Springfield (Ill.) *News* and *Record*. Profit after five years: $250,000.

At 33 J. David Stern was ready for the bigtime and permanence. He bought the gasping Camden (N. J.) *Courier*, a money-losing paper with an anemic 9,000 circulation. In seven years Stern treatment pushed it up to 40,000. When he bought the Camden *Post-Telegram* and gave it the same dose, the man who had gone into Camden with 9,000 circulation had 70,000.

It was when Stern moved across the river to Philadelphia that the nation's press began to take real notice of him—and there that his peculiar tactics saw full flower. By giving away whole libraries of books, by splurging on contests and life insurance, Stern doubled *Record* circulation by 1935, while most other papers were slumping. But it was not only the contests and prizes that did the job. Dave Stern tied his papers to the New Deal. His method was sensationalism—but instead of sensationalizing sex, he pointed his sensationalism at social security. He sensationalized the lot of the common man. He loves to shock staid Union League Clubmembers.

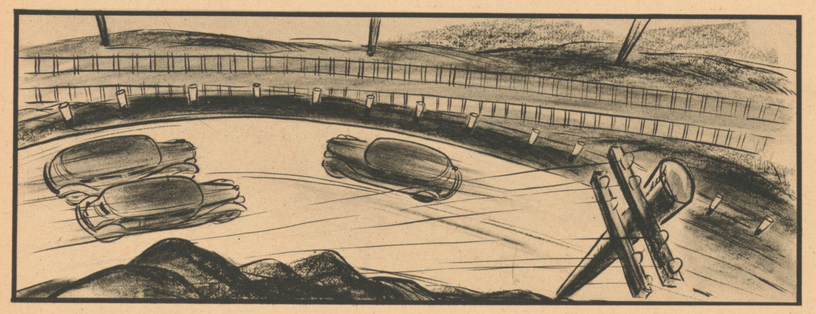
In 1933 Dave Stern bought the dead New York *Post* just as checks for its decent burial lay on its publisher's desk. In three years it has jumped from 60,000 to 205,000 readers in the world's most competitive newspaper market. In New Jersey David Stern is a political power; in Pennsylvania he became a solid political power when he backed the Guffey-Earle ticket, and the successful Roosevelt campaign here last year. Last week's rumor, combined with another that Stern was moving his permanent residence to New York (it has been New Jersey) added up to one thing. Stern was going to spend less time in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania politics, more time with his New York *Post* and New York politics. Observers who have noted how his paper tub-thumps already for Earle for President in 1940 thought they saw some reason behind this new move.

# MURDER by MOTOR

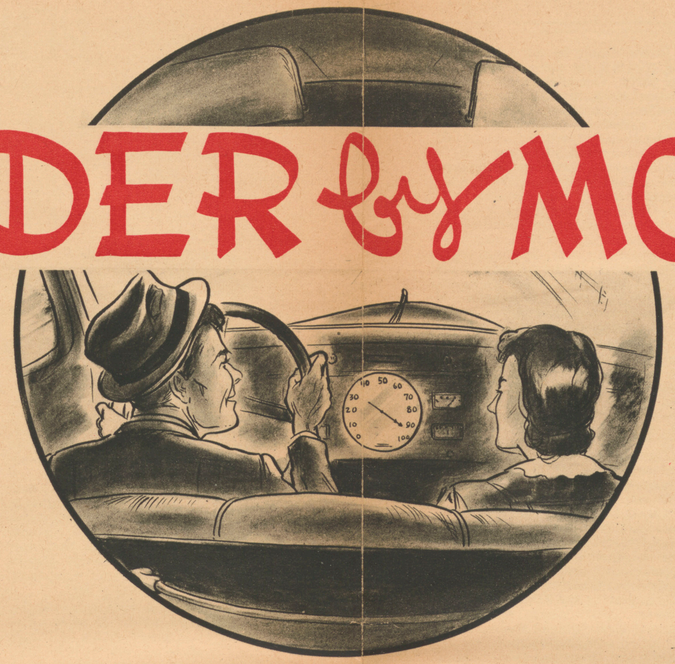
**Driving on the wrong side** may indicate rugged individualism, but it is a short-cut to the hospital or to the mysteries of eternity. In the year covered by the survey, 7,746 individualistic drivers met accident and death this way.

**Going through stop signs** is another way to add to your body and car repair bill. The man on the through highway is not looking for stop signs. You should look. Last year 2,030 failed to look.

**Passing on a hill** (left) may get you to an appointment a few minutes sooner. But it may hurry you to an appointment you did not plan to fulfill so soon. Two hundred and fifty drivers hurried to an appointment with Death on hills.



**Passing on a curve** means driving blind to the blind destiny that may be sending another car around the other side of the curve. Score last year: 213.



**Speeding** is listed as the cause of 12,133 deaths last year, but it is actually the cause of nine out of ten serious accidents.

## 9 Roads to Sudden Death

Every age has its own ills. This one got rid of a lot of plagues, but acquired a new one as bad as the old. America brought the automobile to its present perfection—and at the same time brought auto accidents to their present peak. Last year (see Pages 4, 5 and 6) almost 2,000 persons died in auto accidents in Pennsylvania. More than 47,000 were injured. Still about the most dangerous thing the common man habitually does is to step into his car—and step on the gas.

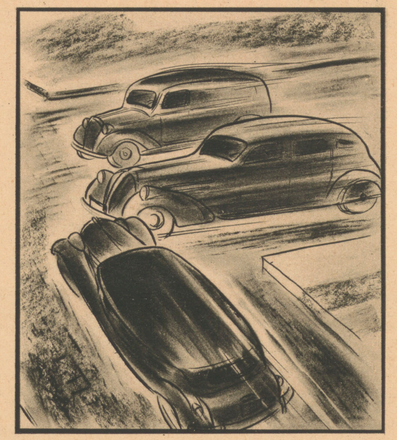
On this page *We the People* pictures nine roads to sudden death. Almost every one of them means one thing—Speed. "Too fast for conditions" covers only the most obvious accidents resulting from speed. Conditions that make speeding dangerous are readily apparent. No man has the right to subject his family, or other autoists, to his speed mania when speed's danger is plainly seen.

Speed is involved in most of the other accidents. Passing on a curve means the driver is in undue haste for his appointment with Death. Passing on a curve has the same grim meaning. So does passing at an intersection. Cutting in combines speed mania with exhibitionism. Probably the cutter-in gets a strange delight from the curses he knows other drivers are hurling at him. But frequently neither cutter nor cuttee lives on. "Forced off the road" may mean wither undue speed in a car or undue size in a truck. One comes of speed lust; the other from money lust.

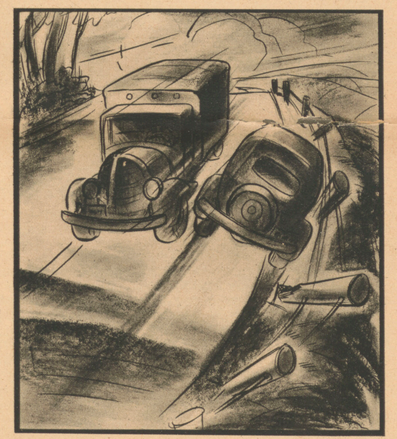
No preachments will cure the driver careless of other's safety. But a combination of learning the facts—having them sink in,— and of strict enforcement may. America can learn to use its automobiles without abusing that use.

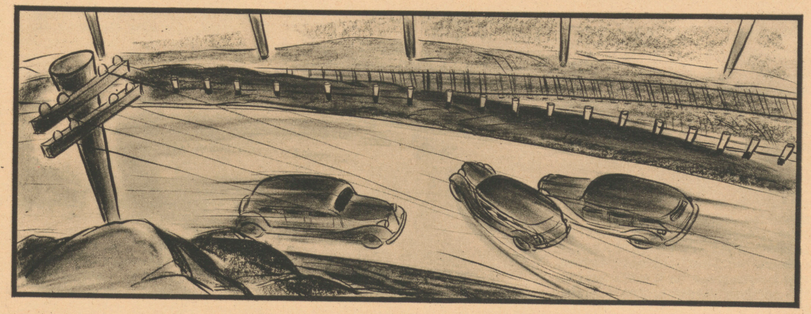
**Failing to signal** meant tragedy for 1,882 Pennsylvanians last year. The other driver is not a mind-reader, and your power of telepathy may not be as great as you believe. That is what the 1,882 drivers learned too late.

**Forced off the road** was the laconic description of the cause of 4,202 accidents last year. Remember that even the narrowest highway has two lanes, and that if you keep on your side, neither driver need fear the ditch.



**Passing at intersections** is something like shooting tigers with a bow and arrow. It can be done successfully, but more than likely you'll never live to tell your grandchildren about it. Last year 792 Pennsylvania drivers failed at this.





**Cutting in** is a variant on the old college snake dance. Even habitual practice will not make you proficient at this operation. Last year 2,164 Pennsylvanians cut in once too often.

# LEGISLATURE

### *Short Week's Work*

Last week's session of Legislature lasted only two days, for Assemblymen were eager to get away to the President's inauguration. Though actual accomplishment during the 2-day session was small, potentialities stirred during them.

**Annual Sessions.** A cumbersome relic of Pennsylvania's past, when the journey to Harrisburg was long and costly, is the biennial meeting of Legislature. Now western legislators spend Monday morning and early afternoon in offices at home, drive lickety-split to Harrisburg to Monday night sessions at 9 p. m. Philadelphia members leave at 5.45, have dinner on the train, plenty of time to read mail and dictate replies to constituents before the session convenes in Harrisburg. In recent sessions Senator Zeisenheim, Erie farmer, invariably flew to the capital. His successor, hard-working Attorney Samuel Gilson, loses all day Monday from his clients and courts in the State's most western district.

Since the State's constitution was written, yearly meetings of Legislature have become frequent. That means that special sessions have become an ordinary event. Last week legislators, Administration leaders and State department heads plumbed for plans to end special sessions of the Assembly by having that body meet each year in regular session, instead of biennially.

To change legislative meeting time means changing the State's antiquated constitution. The plan cannot be made effective before 1939, when, under the present system, the next biennial session will be held. If an amendment is adopted at the present session, and again in 1939, it can be placed before the voters at the 1939 November election. Another proposal that will permit constitutional changes to be voted upon oftener than every five years must also be voted.

**Goodrich Report.** In Washington last week a bloc of seven Senators joined with a group of Representatives to demand a much bigger WPA appropriation than the $790,000,000 suggested grant. Meantime in Harrisburg the State's relief rolls began edging up again, to 145,436 cases (440,317 persons), an increase of 2,429 cases (7,649 persons). It was the sixth consecutive week of increase.

Meantime in Harrisburg the whole question of administering Relief was bubbling from the most burning issue of the year—the Goodrich Report. The Report, which provides among other things for the abolition of Poor Boards, and for establishing a Department of Assistance to handle all Relief, is likely to go down in history as the most contentious topic of the 1937 session.

Presented two weeks ago by Dean Herbert F. Goodrich of the Earle-appointed Committee on Relief & Public Assistance, the Report has crowded most other legislative discussion off the boards. Before many days are gone it is likely that the seething undercurrent the Report has stirred will become a booming chorus in House and Senate chambers.

It is difficult to find any member of the Legislature who does not agree that there should be some change in the method of granting assistance to those in need. Most members will agree that administration of outdoor relief by county and municipal boards can stand reorganization. But they point out that the Goodrich Report makes no concrete recommendations which will improve Relief administration other than to centralize administration in Harrisburg.

Most bitter antagonism to the Report is centered around Kenneth L. M. Pray, Philadelphia chariteer and member of the Goodrich Committee. A professional social worker, Pray is credited with writing the report—which many a legislator feels is weighted for professional social workers. There is no hiding the intense dislike which each group feels for the other. So pronounced was the feeling against Pray that at a meeting of legislators at which the Report was discussed

APOLLOTICIAN KELLY
*Megacephalic?*
*(See Col. 4)*

by Administration leaders, the mention of his name brought a hatred-proving round of boos.

Some features of the Goodrich Report will be adopted and written into law. But it is certain that the Report will be considerably "humanized" before legislators will permit it to be written on the statute books.

Nub of the whole issue is that legislators keenly resent the attempts of social workers to cram down their throats all the favorite formulae of the cult—which appear in the Goodrich Report. Veteran members of Assembly point out that in many respects the recommendations of the Report are the same as those appearing in a similar report during the Pinchot Administration. That report was scrapped. Another cause for legislative resentment has been the high-pressure methods used by social workers to drum up sentiment for the Goodrich Report. (The same methods which legislators themselves employ during a campaign.) A campaigning series of meetings has been arranged throughout the State by associates of Pray and other social work leaders to create sentiment back nome for the adopting of the Report *in toto*.

**Party Feeling.** Most antagonistic of the legislators is a group of new Senators who declare that unless it is recognized that manning the Relief administration is purely a party matter, they will refuse to go along with any section of the Goodrich Report. This group of Senators has for its target Relief Director Karl de Schweinitz, who besides being SERB director, is deputy secretary of welfare—a new job which apparently slates him for Secretary of Assistance if & when such a job is created. Mr. de Schweinitz, a professional social worker himself, has drawn the ire of numerous Democratic stalwarts who complain that he is inaccessibly surrounded by a coterie of chariteers who cannot or will not talk the language of legislators. Equally rankling to Administration followers is the fact that de Schweinitz and the majority of his staff are, or have been, Republicans as late as the Earle-Schnader campaign of 1934.

The down-to-earth argument of legislators is that since Relief is the most important problem before the Administration, its administration must be conducted by men in complete sympathy with the New Deal's platform and policies. They are

WIT WITKIN
*Megalophonic?*
*(See Col. 4)*

demanding that no commitment be made on the head or personnel of the new department until persons be found who can talk to the "home folks" in a non-technical manner, who will fight for Roosevelt-Earle principles rather than adhering to tight rules of the social workers' cult.

While this antagonism to social workers flares so that it seems most likely social workers will be disqualified from State and county administrations *per se*, the whole burning issue was in able legislative hands. Heading the Joint Relief Committee as a showdown on the Goodrich Report nears is one of the ablest of the young Senators—

**Edward Jackson ("Jack") Thompson** of Centre County. A second-termer who was first elected in 1934, husky Jack Thompson (6' 1½", 210 lbs.) is the grandson of Centre County's first sheriff, a staunch Democratic Quaker named John Keene Thompson. With that name known to almost every literate Centre Countian, Jack Thompson had little trouble being elected as Phillipsburg's only Democratic Councilman in 1929 (he is still a member), the year after he was elected to the Board of Viewers. When Jack Thompson quit as State Attorney for PWA, he had just as little trouble lacing a longtime opponent, Republican Harry Scott, for the Senate seat.

In the Senate he was soon carrying the ball for older members of the party. One of the normal waistline minority, he is a ready, fluent speaker, commands an easy presence gained as member of Haverford College's baseball, football and track teams, and of the glee club, in which he sang such a mean baritone that while he attended Penn Law School he sang with the Metropolitan Opera as a spear-carrying super. A better-than-average command of English was gained as a teacher of American Literature at South Philadelphia High School for Boys while he was at law school—from which he progressed to instructor in medieval history at Penn.

Thus while the Assembly is making history with its Relief actions, able Senator Thompson is counted on to carry the spear down an intelligent middle course on the Goodrich Report.

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### *Apollo & Wit*

Handsomest man in the Earle Cabinet, is the tall Philadelphia coleader who is Secretary of Revenue. For his Christmas card John B. ("Jack") Kelly sent out a drawing *(see cut)* from which it could only be inferred that he is not unaware that on Capitol Hill he is called the Apollotician—the inference most people would draw from seeing his figure gracing the same drawing as Venus. Last week Apollotician Kelly had a battle of words, if not of looks, with the wittiest member of the last House, another Philadelphian named Morton Witkin.

Wit Witkin, whose shrewd brain and quick tongue had made him Republican floorleader in the last regular session, sensing the Democratic landslide, retired to his other sinecure, a job as County Commissioner of Philadelphia County. One of Jack Kelly's favorite pieces of legislation is one which would consolidate Philadelphia city & county government—to the detriment of the Republican jobholders, ripping out of office Wit Witkin. Week ago Wit Witkin addressed a vitriolic letter to Apollotician Kelly. Said he:

"It might be well to remember that as you rip, so shall you reap . . . By your own admissions, one has to assume that you're the 'whole works' in Harrisburg." Demanding a survey of Secretary Kelly's Department of Revenue, and a bigger cut of State tax money for Philadelphia, Wit Witkin flung a whole series of politically pointed questions at Secretary Kelly. He added: "Now be nice, Jack. Be less megacephalic (big-headed) and perhaps we'll get better results."

Concluded he: "Remember Jack . . . in the next election . . . you'll have to go on your own, and you weren't so successful on your own in '35 (when Mayor Wilson defeated Kelly). You had better build—don't destroy—and maybe you'll be more successful this time."

Not slow was Apollotician Kelly to bandy words with Wit Witkin. Thumbing through the dictionaries until he got to the "megs," Kelly found just the word he wanted. It was "megalophonic: having a loud voice; vociferous; clamorous." Gleefully he flung that back at Witkin, meantime warning him to read *Gone With the Wind*. Said Kelly: "A lot of Republicans have done just that. The Day of Reckoning came two years ago in Harrisburg, Morty. It has now arrived in Philadelphia."

# CINEMA

*Board of Censors*

There were play censors in Shakespeare's day. But censorship then depended largely on the whim of royalty and nobility who, until James I came to the throne and looked down his Puritan nose on the theater, were more concerned with the political inuendoes in a play. But no Will Hays organization clapped down on what a modern script writer would call a gag —and broad indeed were gags in Shakespeare's day and in his plays.

Perhaps because Shakespeare is a classic, small towners who currently are seeing expensive first-run showings of *Romeo and Juliet* heard one gag in the Nurse's rambling discourse which would never get by a modern censor board, such as Pennsylvania's, which currently is in the news because appointed recently as new board chairman was Mrs. A. Mitchell Palmer, widow of a Pennsylvania Democratic Great Name, the late Attorney General in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet.

During a tense bedroom scene on the screen of Pennsylvania cinemansions, the actors occasionally open their mouths—and no sound issues forth. These fishlike mouthings cause moviegoers to nudge each other, whisper "That scene's been censored," and hasten to test their lip-reading faculties.

Only in Pennsylvania and five other States do audiences regularly experience this phenomenon. The Pennsylvania State Board of Censors, with offices in the Warner Brothers Building at 1225 Vine Street, Philadelphia, is the original censor board for movies in the U. S. Today New York, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland and Kansas have boards modeled on the Pennsylvania one. Some cities, like Detroit, Chicago, Boston and Birmingham, have their local censors. The Dominion of Canada also has its censor board. Just now the State of Illinois is seriously

THE SEAL

*Of the Board goes on every reel of film passed.*

considering passage of a censor bill which lifts the Pennsylvania model bodily.

Created by an Act of Legislature in 1915, the Board of Censors really began functioning in 1911. For four years, from 1911-15, members functioned voluntarily, without salary. Today members get $4,500—which is more than paid for from the revenue from fees which cinema companies must pay to get the censorship seal on every reel of film. State fees are $2 for every 1,200 feet or less, or about $20 a picture. The Board has a 2-year State budget of $120,000. Not only does it pay for itself, but in 1935 it made money for the first time in its history.

**Duties.** Pennsylvania's three censors view all movies shown in the State, except newsreels. (Because of the time element, the law was amended to exclude these.) To many a small boy or girl it might appear that the censors have a wonderful job; adults might unthinkingly consider it an easy one. To such, it would be news to learn that the censors meet every day to gaze at movies from 9.30 a. m. to 5.30 p. m. They seldom come in on Saturday, never on Sunday. Which means that censors have a 5-day week of moviegoing. They admit that they tire of looking at movies; but they also hint that they often take in a cinema on their nights off.

The three members of the Board are all connected with Democratic politics, all Earle appointees—but boast that political considerations have never entered into their work. Chairman Mrs. Palmer, a distinguished looking lady, is deeply interested in politics, worked with the Speakers' Bureau in New York last Spring. Handsome, white-haired Vice-Chairman Patrick A. Duffy of Wilkes-Barre, a State Committeeman for the past six years, was in the amusement business in Wilkes-Barre for 15 years before he joined the Board of Censors. The third member is Mrs. John L. Fye of Waynesburg, who took office in July, 1936. Versatile, she was formerly a school director, an executive member of the Poor Board, the only woman inspector for the Home Loan Corp. in Western Pennsylvania. Vice-chairman of the Democratic Party in Green County for 16 years, she was an alternate delegate to the last Democratic National Convention, is now the Censor Board's secretary.

Other key employes of the Board are John A. Core of Uniontown, the administrative assistant; Mrs. David A. Rahilly, assistant censor, who looks at short subjects and anything else assigned her by the Board; and Margaret M. Welsh, personal secretary to the Board.

The censors have their private theater on the Warner Building's sixth floor, where, seated in soft leather chairs, they watch from 30 to 50 reels a day. Blue pencil in hand and complete dialogue before them, they are ready to strike out a line or gesture which seems unfit. Above their heads are small portholes through which the films, flashed from projection machines operated by Louis A. McDermott and Alfred Curley, are thrown on a small screen on the other end of the room. In front of them is a long table on which they keep their notebooks and dialogue. After a picture is run through, the censors have a conference to discuss the parts which have displeased them.

**Censored.** Among the things for which the censors are on the lookout, and which are prohibited, are: murder or brutal killing in detail; theft, arson, robbery, dynamiting smuggling explicitly revealed; the use of liquor in American life except as required by the plot or characterization; illegal dope traffic; adultery presented attractively; repulsive sex matters in general; scenes of passion not essential to the plot; excessive kissing, lustful embraces and suggestive postures or gestures. The Board strives to bring out as much as possible those qualities which paint the sanctity of marriage and the home. Its purpose is "to steer a middle course between the fanatics on one hand and reckless liberals on the other."

Of 1785 subjects viewed last year, 1608 were approved without change, 173 were modified, several films were banned completely. One of the banned films was *Ecstasy,* the film on which Fritz Mandl, Austrian munitions magnate, spent $280,000 buying up prints because he objected to the nakedness in which it exhibited his wife, Heidy Kiestler. *Ecstasy,* which won an award for artistic excellence at Prague, and

THE CENSORS AT WORK

*Personal Secretary Welsh; Vice-chairman Duffy; Chairman Mrs. Palmer. (Inset) Board Secretary Mrs. Fye.*

another at the International Film Exposition in Venice, is notable for the facial expressions which give the picture its title—and its notoriety. They are seen in a series of long, rhythmic close-ups during an interlude in a cabin, after Heidy Kiestler, in bathing in a woods pool, has lost her clothes and met a young officer. The close-ups leave no doubt in the spectators' minds as to the emotions which the actress is experiencing. They show nothing but her face, and there is no dialogue. The film was exhibited in Washington, among other U. S. cities—but not in Pennsylvania.

Typical scenes and dialogue eliminated:

Eliminate man dancing with girl, where man is in shirt tail.

Eliminate drunken girl lying in man's arms.

Eliminate dialogue: "We must have twin beds." "Why, are you going to take in a boarder?"

A part may be run through three or four times, if that is necessary for the censors to make up their minds. Eliminations sheets are then issued, which note memorandums of the suggested changes. Movie men can appeal from these changes. Then final elimination sheets are made up. After the objectionable lines or gestures have been eliminated, the seal of the Board of Censors is placed on the reel. (That is what you see flashed on the screen at the first of a picture: "Approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Censors.") Ten field inspectors throughout the State drop into movies to see that the seals are on all the pictures and that proper eliminations have been made, and not sneaked back in.

**Shorts.** Besides the one large room (18x40 feet) where the Board sits, there is an auxiliary room to fine-comb shorts, comics and Westerns for objectionable parts. These minor pictures are usually taken care of by the assistant censor, who works in the auxiliary room while the Board itself is watching an important feature. Recently, for example, the Board was viewing *The Plough and the Stars,* while Mrs. Rahilly was conning several short comedies and a Western.

**Appeals.** It is not necessary for the entire Board to see every picture. One alone can pass on it. But should movie magnates appeal the Board's decision, it becomes necessary for at least two of the three Board members to sit in. The decisions of the Board are not absolutely final. They can be carried to local courts, even up to the Supreme Court. No such appeals have occurred lately. But movie men have a discouraging precedent when they make an appeal: no decision of the Board has ever been reversed by the courts.

**Policy.** Says Vice-Chairman Duffy: "There is no doubt that movies are getting much better all the time, and that there is much less in them to be eliminated. The Board feels that this is due, in great part, to the efforts of the Legion of Decency and of the Will Hays organization, and of boards of censorship like ours.

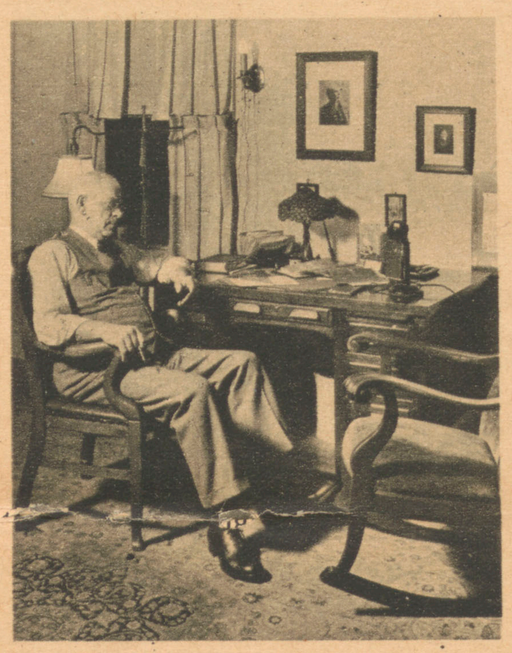
"We work in what has been called Pennsylvania's most exclusive moving-picture theater five days a week, sometimes until six in the evening. We like to clean up every day's work before the next day begins. We are always on the lookout for something objectionable; as soon as one of us sees something which he regards as questionable, it is our policy to tell the person who has the script in front of her, and have her make a note of it. This way we miss little, and can confer intelligently after the film has been seen. We ban very few movies because the tone of the picture industry is constantly improving.

"I suppose we do get tired of looking at movies once in a while," says Mr. Duffy. "But I must confess that I go to the movies with my wife many an evening."

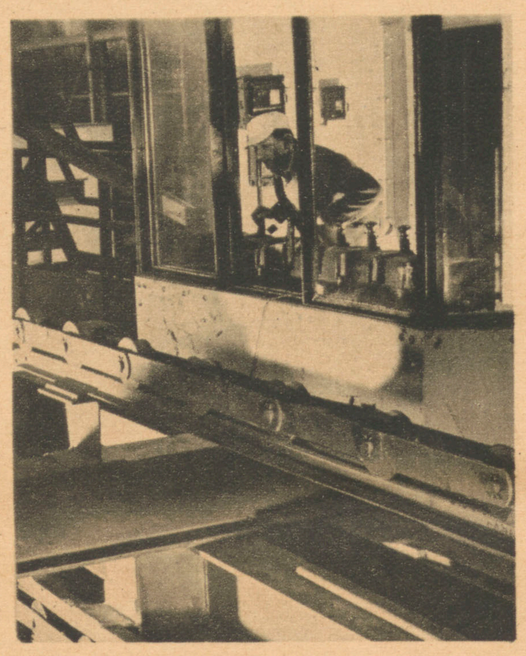
# BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

## *Homestead Mammoth*

Last week at Homestead assembled four hundred godfathers for the christening of Carnegie-Illinois' sprawling new offspring, a semi-continuous plate mill called the best of its kind in the world. Coupon clippers gurgled joyfully, buyers gaped, newscribes scribbled as Steel Satraps Myron Taylor and William Irvin played the proud father, put the young giant of U. S. Steel through its paces. Exactly 861 feet longer than the *Queen Mary*, weighing close to a million tons, this latest marvel of the machine age grabbed a 5-ton steel slab of 9-inch thickness, in 90 seconds rolled it out to three thirty-seconds of an inch thinness, flatter than the proverbial pancake. Only thirty-eight men were needed to assist it.



ENGINEER SODERBERG
*Looked at a rocking chair and cried "Eureka!"*



FROM THIS PULPIT
*The new steel worker deals steel slabs like cards.*

Experts pointed out that it could flatten and polish 2,000 tons a day, over 700,000 tons a year.

After the ceremony Satrap Irvin gave the godfathers a banquet and a lecture. At the banquet they ate lobster and apple pie. At the lecture they learned the new mill cost $11,000,000, that the fertile womb of U. S. Steel would soon bring forth new mills at Clairton and Braddock costing $45,000,000 and $15,000,000 respectively.

Said he: "These mills will round out our diversification of products in Pittsburgh so that there will be no important item missing."

Said Banker Frank Faber Brooks of Pittsburgh's First National: "This squelches the last sour notes of those who had little faith in Pittsburgh."

Said Tycoon Taylor: "A brighter future lies at hand."

**East, West, East.** The first iron furnaces in America were built during Revolutionary days in Eastern Pennsylvania and Virginia. In 1860 they were abandoned beside the streams that had furnished their power as the industry went west to the new furnaces in Pittsburgh. Expanding, the business became the very bone structure of American economic life, seemed to be centered around Pittsburgh. Then ore was discovered in the mid-west. New mills were erected in Ohio and Illinois. Connections were established with the growing western railways, the vast Great Lake shipping interests, the automobile industry. Pittsburgh's supremacy was threatened. In the production of thin strips and light plates, it was destroyed.

Now with Eastern markets in light steel growing daily, the pendulum is swinging back. Great costs in time and transportation can be saved by supplying thin plates straight from eastern distributing centers to the marine, electric motor & steel fabricating industries. Diversification will enable the steel companies to supply newer, more exacting demands. If labor trouble crops up in one area, orders can be filled by similar machines in another area.

Not an exception is the Homestead mill. It marks the beginning of a trend. Besides sister projects at Clairton and Braddock, a similar plant now being erected by Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. will be running within three months, will be competing with even flatter plates. There is money to be made by these new machines; there is labor to be saved. The field will soon be crowded by the seekers after gravy.

**Button-pushers.** Operators run the mill by pushing buttons and pulling levers. Like captains of an ocean-liner, they stand upon a narrow bridge in glass-enclosed cabins called the "pulpits," communicating with their colleagues by a signal system.

At the first pulpit the operator supplies cold slabs to the seven-door furnaces, dealing them out like a deck of cards. As a slab enters at one end, a door opens at the far end of the furnace eighty feet away, a white hot slab comes out. The hot slab passes between the first line of rollers where the scale it acquired in the furnace is broken off and washed away. Then it is turned around and run through the rollers weighing over 300,000 pounds which flatten it to the desired width. Next it goes to the Slab Squeezer which squares its edges and trues its width. Hence to the Reversing Stand where it is rolled back and forth like a lump of dough beneath a rolling pin until the desired gauge is attained. (Only in semi-continuous mills can this reversing process take place. According to Homestead officials a continuous mill such as is being built by Jones & Laughlin necessitates re-rolling from the very beginning or else starting out with a thinner slab.) From this point the slab rolls on through crop shears and rotary shears to the famous—

**Rocking Shear.** First of its kind in the world, the new 80-ton Rocking Shear, which slices the plates to the desired lengths, has brought relief to the mind of Chief Engineer A. W. Soderberg and cash to his pocket. Old-type straight edge shears bit into the plates and left an arch in the steel.

Pondering in his study one day, Engineer Soderberg idly tipped a rocking chair with his foot. The rocker caught his eye. He noted that only a small portion of the rocker touched the rug at a given moment. Shouting "Eureka!" he built himself a miniature shearing machine with the blade curved like a chair rocker. When he demonstrated its value with five packages of chewing gum, his associates' skepticism vanished. Solemnly, a stick at a time, they snipped it in the gadget. It worked.

Like Ole Man River the slabs just keep on rollin' along through automatic scales, automatic sorters, automatic stackers to the freight cars. Then to the customers who will turn them into auto parts, decks of ships and machinery to produce more slabs.

Astounding is the amount of labor saved by this type of machinery. For processes formerly requiring seven or eight men, one pulpit operator is now sufficient. Although the complexity of the machinery clearly necessitates more maintenance men, the productivity of the new machine more than accounts for this. According to *Steel* (Oct. 22, '34), 126 men at a continuous rolling mill can do the work 4,000 men did with the older machinery. One man can take the place of 32.

**Prosperity.** Mighty like Prosperity sounds the present construction wave in steel. Production is now at 80 percent of capacity; prices and profits are high. New markets are available, new factories making new commodities like metal furniture, and old factories making more and higher developed products, like automobiles. Build more machines, say the Steel Satraps, step up production, sell more commodities, make more money, build more machines, increase production again.

Claim Carnegie-Illinois and parent U. S. Steel: "More machines mean more jobs." Argument: new machines mean new processes, more labor; making new machines means labor. Meantime new commodities spring up to create a demand that must be satisfied. Hence men rendered jobless by one machine go back to work on others.

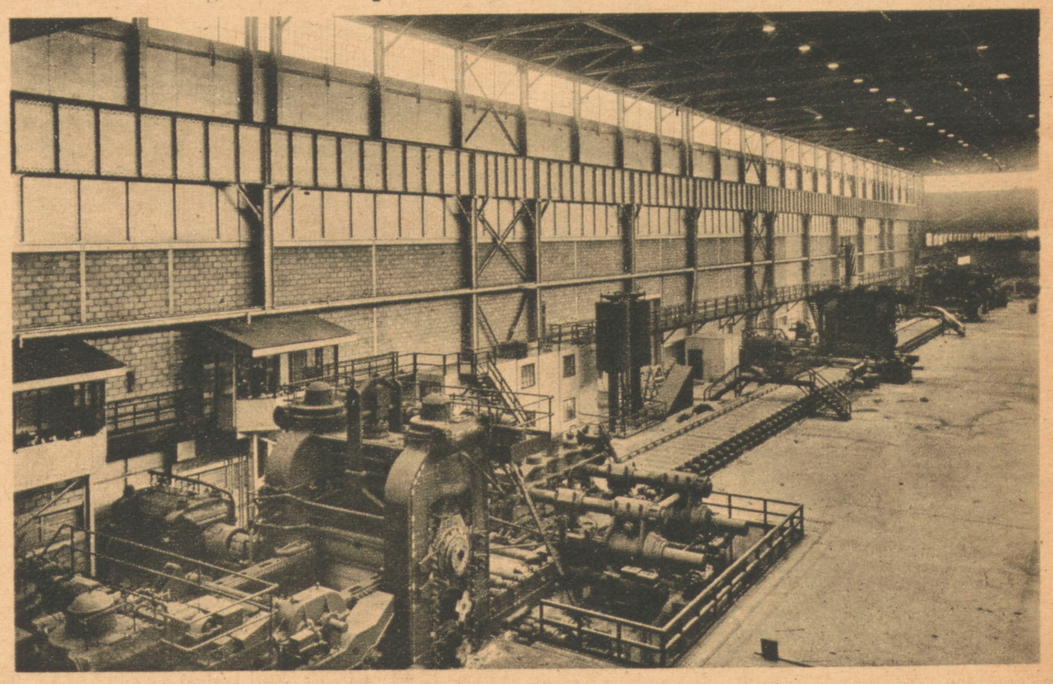
**Baby Frankenstein?** If this reasoning is correct, new mills like the Homestead one will be a decisive aid to recovery. But far different is the reasoning of the average steel worker menaced by the specter of unemployment. His logic, born of seeing work-gangs grow smaller & smaller, runs simply: "More machines, less work." Fearing that a semi-continuous mill means a semi-continuous year, he visions the same end that Poet Percy Bysshe Shelley's wife saw when English weavers were destroying the new weaving machines. Mrs. Shelley wrote *Frankenstein*, in which a machine destroyed its maker.

Then the answer to the problem seemed to be destroying the machine. Modern steel workers have a different answer: shorter hours, social security laws.

Says CIO Organizer Scotty O'Hara: "We're not against this contraption at Homestead. We're against being its slaves. If we get a short week and higher wages, O. K. Otherwise there will be thousands thrown out of work—then a crash. The machine's searing everybody, all right." Says Signer-upper Shearn, waving a sheaf of union applications: "We've got a continuous rolling mill too. They don't weigh tons, but look how fast they're rolling in. A few more of them, and we'll pull the teeth of that Frankenstein."

**The Tops.** Completely revolutionizing in the antiquated mills that have long sucked away at U. S. Steel profits in Pittsburgh, driven business to younger, lustier competitors, is the new Homestead mill. It's everything the publicity releases say. It's a tribute to inventive genius. It's the Flower of U. S. Steel. It's the tops.

And it is a huge question mark. No doubt is there that U. S. Steel had to install the mill to keep alive in a competitive age. No fault of machinery is the fact that it may throw men out of work. But huge and looming as the mill itself remains the problem of modern industrialism—who owes what to the men whom machines replace? Can the prosperity born of the new mills be true prosperity if Men of Steel get less return from them than the Masters of Steel?



THE MAMMOTH MILL
*"We're not against this contraption at Homestead. We're against being its slaves."*

# LABOR

## *Detroit Via Pittsburgh*

Labor event Number 1 last week was the settlement of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass strike. Key to its importance is that glass is vital in the production of automobiles. The strike, which broke last October in a peak auto-output season, had as its object a new wage agreement to replace the one expiring December 31; had as its result the impending tie-up of the whole auto industry. Pittsburgh threatened to cripple Detroit.

Currently being fought in Detroit, other auto centers, is a war of giants. In one corner is the billion-dollar General Motors Corporation, controlled by the higher strategy of the duPont family, and linked by cross-directorships with the all-powerful House of Morgan. Squared off in the other corner is the reborn 100,000-strong United Automobile Workers Union (membership six months ago: several hundred), backed and guided by the up & coming Committee for Industrial Organization, the million-and-a-half membership of which grows daily. Immediate prize is unionization of GM's 69 plants; long-range prize, unionization of all American labor.

Tacitly admitted by both contenders is that the fight's outcome will determine whether mass production industries can be organized. Hence the bitterness of the struggle. Hence the presence of troops in Detroit, the frantic formation of vigilante committees (Flint Alliance), the injunction issued by a stock-holding judge, the stubborn refusal of sit-downers to evacuate plants, the equally stubborn refusal of GM officials to negotiate, the importation of Strikebreaker Pearl Bergoff and hundreds of thugs, the barrage of anti-union propaganda being palmed off as news in auto-center newspapers. Hence also the supreme importance of the plate glass settlement in Pittsburgh.

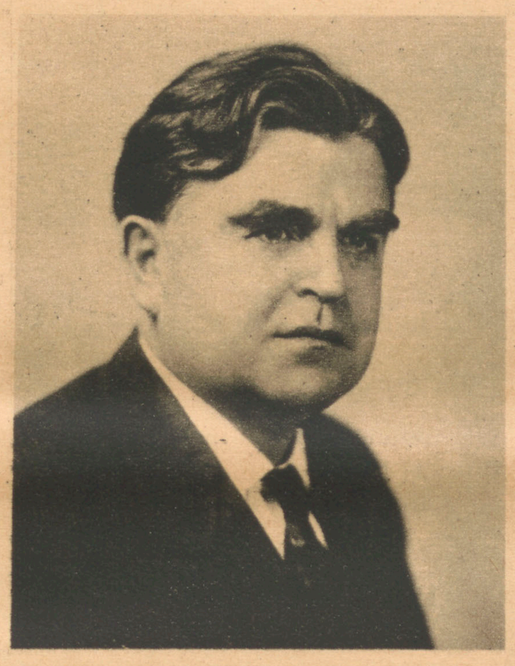
**Tactics.** For the success of the auto strike depends upon its confinement to GM's plants alone. The 37,000 GM employes on strike have closed down 17 plants, indirectly standstilling production in other GM units employing 100,000 as a result of the lack of indispensable auto parts such as dies. Not strong enough to tackle the entire auto industry is the CIO. Trump card of General Motors, chief worry of the CIO, was the glass strike which lingered dangerously behind schedule. With union strategy dictating that friendly relations be maintained with all auto producers except GM, a prolonged stoppage of plate glass would shut down GM's competitors. The fear of sacrificing markets to Ford, Chrysler and other automen eliminated, General Motors could afford to wait-it-out, as a long paralysis sapped the strength of the CIO, slashed the morale of the men.

With the strike in glass settled, assuring an unending supply to auto plants not on strike, reports that Ford and Chrysler have already stepped up production 25 percent take on added significance, nourish John L. Lewis' CIO's hope that a solid tie-up must inevitably bring GM to its knees.

In a consensus almost unanimous, observers contend that the destiny of labor & industry hangs on this strike. If the CIO can force the hitherto invincible General Motors to surrender, its prestige would grow by leaps & bounds; workers in steel, rubber, cement, would flock into industrial unions. Unions pondering whether to throw their lot with the Lewis committee or stay safely in the embrace of the American Federation of Labor, would have no alternative but to join up. CIO victory would heighten its pressure and influence in Washington: sharpened labor legislation could be counted upon.

A defeat would be equally crucial. The consequent set-back to the CIO might well be serious enough to destroy it, leaving the field of labor free once again to the conservative, cautious craft-leadership of the A. F. of L., whose high ambition it is to retain a membership of few-numbered skilled workers.

**Settlement.** The glass strike, its termination impelled by CIO necessity, can be considered a union semi-victory in its own right. Won was a year-long agreement which provides:



CIO's LEWIS
*In Pittsburgh a semi-victory was a tactical advantage.*

(1) A flat pay raise of 8c an hour for all workers, establishment of a minimum rate of 63c an hour for men, a minimum of 55c for women. Beams Union President Glen McCabe: ". . . The highest minimum hourly and daily labor rates in American industry." Minimum for men steel workers in the area is 54c—less than glass's women will get.

(2) Company recognition of seniority rights with consequent security for long-time workers.

(3) Creation of a 5-man commission, with a chairman appointed by the U. S. Labor Department, to iron out differences.

Not won was the closed shop, but according to McCabe the demand was unessential since the union is in practice the sole bargaining agency. Upwards of 90 percent of the industry's workers are enrolled. Neither competing craft unions nor company unions have been able to make a dent.

Noteworthy in the settlement is demonstrated power and skilled leadership of the CIO. Poring over maps in Pittsburgh, CIO generalissimos plan attacks, strategical retreats, with a precision deserving the envy of Army staffs. Demonstrated also is the superiority of industrial unionism in the mass production industries. The Pittsburgh settlement is a victory beyond the dreams of the A. F. of L.

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## *Maloy Meets Grill*

Few months ago U. S. Steel, striving to stymie the onrushing unionization drive of the Committee for Industrial Organization, announced a 10 percent wage increase. With the increase went the condition that future wage scales would be strapped to the cost of living. Also went the story that the raise resulted from conferences held between management and employe (company union) representatives.

Belligerently into Washington strode Duquesne Steelworker Elmer J. Maloy, chairman of the Pittsburgh District Council of Carnegie-Illinois employe representatives, to appear before the National Labor Relations Board with a blasting denial of such conferences and a withering denunciation of the proposed scheme. The ruse exposed, Maloy returned to Duquesne, actively co-worked with the CIO, played a major role in the conversion of the company union set-up into the militant CIO Representatives Council *(We the People, January 4)*.

ELMER MALOY
*A borer-from-within made steelmen rue the day.*

**Ouster.** For his many works, Maloy was unchairmaned in a move which impartial Pennsylvania newspapers headlined: WORKERS OUST AIDE OF LEWIS. Into Washington fortnight ago again hied Craneman Maloy to be grilled by the Labor Board, to be cross-grilled by Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation lawyers. Maloy met grill, emerged bloody but unbowed. Over the objection of Company Mouthpieces Alex Pendelton and Benjamin Wham, Maloy testified he lost his chairmanship because of his connections with the CIO and for no other reason, denied that steelworkers had anything to do with his ousting. Charging that Carnegie-Illinois tactics violated labor rights guaranteed by the Wagner Labor Act, ex-AEF Machine Gunner Maloy sprayed the election which unseated him. He told how the resolution for his dismissal originated in the Carnegie Building in Pittsburgh, how none but employe representatives who favored his ouster was invited to the election, how a more representative election held several weeks before had refused to unseat him.

**Double Dealer?** After vigorous questioning by Labor Board counsel failed to shake his testimony, Company Lawyer William Beye flank-attacked Maloy as a double-dealer. Maloy smilingly admitted he has been receiving paychecks since September, 1936, as spare-time organizer for the CIO-backed Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers while drawing pay as company union chairman. Attested Borer-from-within Maloy: "By remaining as employe representatives we would have a better chance to have the men join with the Steel Workers Organizing Committee in creating an industrial organization than by excluding ourselves from the representation plan."

"To replace the (company union) plan?" shot Beye.

"Yes sir," the witness revealed.

Countering Barrister Beye's contention that Maloy's double service justified his ouster, Maloy's counsel pointed out that the employe representation plan itself provides that union membership excludes no employe from obtaining company union benefits, or being a representative under the plan. Stretching a fine, technical point, counsel argued: "The purpose of this witness, assuming it was to obtain all of the employes of the Duquesne plant as members of the Amalgamated, would not necessarily conflct with or result in the succesion of the employe representation plan."

As company lawyers fumed in vain to answer the argument, as Pennsylvania steelmen rued the day they conceived their "plan" to block bona fide unions, moral-victor Maloy went back to Duquesne, capitalized his publicity by signing up new droves of truant steelworkers.

**Negroes.** Last week the surging steel drive gained new impetus as a dozen State-wide Negro organizations rallied in support of the CIO. Issuing a broad conference-call from Pittsburgh, Negro leaders of the church, the Urban League, the National Negro Congress, the American Woodmen, other fraternal groups, pledged their cooperation with Phillip Murray, chairman of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. Announced the call:

"We Negro people are widely interested in the success of this drive. In the first place, about 100,000 of our people are employed in the steel industry . . . The steel organization drive offers one of the greatest opportunities we have ever had to improve the economic welfare of the colored people."

**Philadelphia.** Meanwhile in the Eastern part of the State, 10 Philadelphia labor unions, representing 80,000 workers, swung their support to the CIO. Prominent among them is the Battery Workers Union, now sit-down striking in two Exide plants. The open flouting of American Federation of Labor authority is the most significant development in Quaker City labor circles since the NRA. It presages a big drive to organize mass production industries in the area. Soon to open an office with full-time organizers is a newly-formed council, headed by leaders of the "big 4" unions—Internationl Ladies Garment Workers, United Electrical & Radio Workers, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and American Federation of Hosiery Workers.

# MEDICINE

*Insulin for Schizophrenics?*

Year after year Pennsylvania mental hospitals house 7,500 sufferers from dementia praecox—most prevalent of the diseases known to the layman as insanity.

And day after day other thousands walk the streets, mingling with the sane in theatres, restaurants, stadiums—mad but untreated, sometimes because their insanity is unrecognized, more often because there is no room for them in mental hospitals.

These thousands, uncounted, even unestimated, impose a terrific burden upon their relatives and friends who are responsible for them.

Theirs is a doubly tragic existence. Misunderstood, unexplainable, they are creatures of the dark, dwelling in a queer, tortured world of their own. Schizophrenics, as those afflicted with dementia praecox are scientifically termed, usually suffer from persecution complexes. They imagine they are followed by deadly enemies, that unseen forces are out to harm them, even that friends and loved ones are secretly conspiring against them. Normal, sane people wake at times from an occasional nightmare in a cold sweat. To these denizens of a dim-lit world, nightmare is constant, normal.

Those on the outside, few of them able to work or hold jobs, impose an unfair load upon individual families. Those in institutions constitute a drain on the resources of the State, since few are cured and must be cared for by trained attendants until they die. In comparison with the number who need hospitalization, existing facilities are admittedly inadequate. Few months ago, Welfare Secretary John D. Pennington revealed that State mental hospitals have an excess patient-enrollment of 1,576; overcrowding means overwork for doctors and nurses, undertreatment for patients.

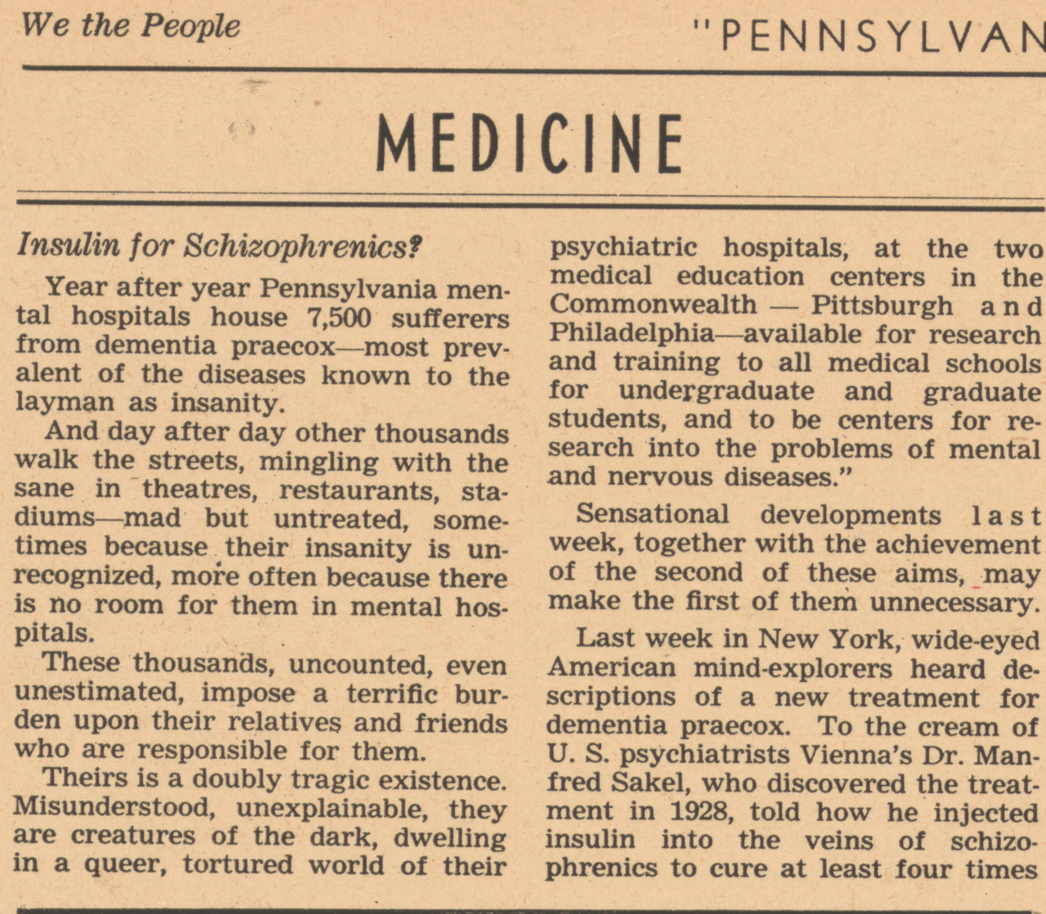
In his proposed 10-year program for the Department, Commander Pennington has recommended:

"The increase of accomodations and facilities in State-owned mental hospitals by 6,000 to care for a minimum increase in the population of State-owned mental hospitals." (Present population, 18,074.)

And further: "The establishment and construction of two State-owned psychiatric hospitals, at the two medical education centers in the Commonwealth — Pittsburgh and Philadelphia—available for research and training to all medical schools for undergraduate and graduate students, and to be centers for research into the problems of mental and nervous diseases."

Sensational developments last week, together with the achievement of the second of these aims, may make the first of them unnecessary.

Last week in New York, wide-eyed American mind-explorers heard descriptions of a new treatment for dementia praecox. To the cream of U. S. psychiatrists Vienna's Dr. Manfred Sakel, who discovered the treatment in 1928, told how he injected insulin into the veins of schizophrenics to cure at least four times as many as would ordinarily recover. Insulin, which has worked miracles in the stemming of diabetes, has never before been used to fight mental diseases.




PATIENTS IN STATE INSTITUTIONS
*Will Dr. Sakel's treatment send the curve down?*

Effect of the injection is to produce a state of shock—literally stunning the patient back into sanity. Insulin acts to reduce the sugar content of the blood. With diabetes, in which the blood is characterized by an excessive amount of sugar, the insulin cuts it to normal. In dementia praecox the sugar in the blood is normal: the sudden decrease caused by the insulin brings on the shock. After the shock has had its effect, additions of sugar to the blood restore the patient to normal.

Discovery of the new treatment was helped by a lucky accident. Ministering to morphine addicts who also suffered from diabetes, Dr. Sakel noticed that the insulin profoundly affected their psychological outlook. The changes he saw convinced him that lowering blood-sugar "either indirectly or directly can influence psychotic states in a way that could be put to practical use." He tried it on 300 early and advanced cases of schizophrenia, got results ranging from improvement to definite cure.

First to give the method a trial in America is Dr. Bernard Glueck, director of Stony Lodge (Ossinning, N. Y.). Confirms he: "The experience with the (treatment) at Stony Lodge during the past three months leaves very little doubt about the correctness of the European authorities who have employed this method, when they asserted that it is superior to any method thus far used . . . It is entirely premature, on the other hand, to speak from personal experience on the degree of permanance of the results."

Glueck tells of one patient, clearly schizophrenic for ten years, who "now has had periods of lucidity and good contact with reality for several days at a time in the course of treatment, a degree of normality which . . . he had approached in years."

Others working on the Sakel treatment were Dr. Earl Bowman, director of psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital, New York; Adolf Meyer, chief psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins; Dr. Joseph Wortis, of N. Y. U. Medical College; Dr. Clarence Cheney, of the Psychiatric Institute, and others.

For about a decade after it was first defined and classified in the closing years of the last century, dementia praecox was believed to be utterly incurable. With the cause still unknown, with the entire subject of mental disease lagging far behind physical disease, progress has been slow, step-by-step. But improvements, even cures, have been effected for a long time. Now, when the malady is spotted before it is so serious that the sufferer must be confined to an asylum, the proportion of cures is encouraging.

Sometimes changes of environment set the patient right; sometimes psychoanalysis—probing of the mind to disclose hidden fears, worries. Some investigators, suspecting glandular disturbances as a possible cause, have injected substances prepared from the reproductive organs; thyroid is being tried, with the results not definitely settled. Many experiments, largely disappointing, have been made with narcotic drugs; others have injected solutions of common salt, sometimes with fair results. Daring scientists are said to have obtained cures by giving their patients typhoid fever—a 'cure" which might be worse than the ailment. Surgical operations, high-pressure douches, small doses of iodine—all these treatments and many more have been tried. None of them has stood the test of repetition; none is the long-sought cure.

Has Dr. Sakel hit upon it? That answer will not be fully known for years. But another answer is: psychiatrists are convinced that the means of curing the disease are within reach, that with unremitting research and experiment—and above all, with adequate appropriations of funds—the existing facilities for housing the insane should be sufficient. The answer, say competent healthmen, is not more asylums but fewer insane.

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*Flu Epidemic*

Pittsburgh healthmen, combatting the worst influenza epidemic in years, fought without their leader last week when Health Director Isaac Hope Alexander fell before the enemy. With an estimated 15 percent of industrial and office workers down with it, with school absentees doubled, the flu-ridden city watched the death toll grow.

New Castle postal service was impaired as flu depleted the ranks of mailmen. Philadelphia, Huntingdon, Allegheny County, and especially Bedford County, reported abnormal numbers of new cases.

Still baffling to medicos is influenza. With the cause & cure still in the realm of guesswork, flu like its near & dear relatives grippe and cold, is treated by wait-it-out methods not very different from those used centuries ago. Best evidence suggests that the three are merely successive stages of the same malady. A severe cold is marked by sneezing, congestion of the nose and chest, heavy nasal dischages. Add aching limbs, slight fever, and the diagnosis is grippe. With extreme chills & fever, together with complete physical and mental exhaustion, the index of symptoms points to influenza.

Most frequently attributed cause is a sub-microscopic organism, small enough to pass freely through porcelain filters. Recent experiments raise doubts as to whether this filterable virtus is living, dead, or somewhere in the nether-world in-between.

Last week in Cambridge, Mass., two Harvard men sprayed the unseen virus with ultra-violet floodlight rays. Setting the rays upon hospital corridors, they were able to prevent flu-carriers from spreading from room to room, demonstrating that the ray has a lethal effect upon the virus.

Briefly said famed Philadelphia bacteriologist Dr. Stuart Mudd: "Very hopeful." In his opinion, a combination of ultra-violet rays and improved air-conditioning would go far to curb highly infectious influenza.

Meanwhile some variety of flu annually strikes one out of every ten U. S. citizens, with the proportion measurably jumping in epidemic years. News comes from London that a quarter of England's largest city is currently abed with it. Pandemics—world-wide epedemics—are fortunately rare. The last in 1918 killed hundreds of thousands, left unnumbered millions suffering from serious after-effects.

DR. ALEXANDER
*In Pittsburgh, flu sent the flu-fighters' chief to bed.*

Before flu sent him to bed, Pittsburgh's Health Director Alexander, a tall, husky pneumonia expert, got Pittsburgh Council to vote $25,000 for free pneumonia serum. Worst pneumonia city in the U. S. is Pittsburgh. To catch pneumonia there has meant a 43-to-47 chance of dying. Pneumonia serum is useful against only two of the 37 types of pneumonia, and expensive (75 to $100 per patient). In New York and Massachusetts use of the serum has cut pneumonia mortality in half.

# PRESS

## *PNPA Meeting*

That no newspaperman is good copy is one of journalism's prize chestnuts and greatest untruths. Excellent copy last week were the activities of some 500 members of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Ass'n., at their annual convention in Harrisburg. That little of what actually happened was published was no feather in the hats of Pennsylvania's press.

Behind closed doors, barred to the curious and unbelievers, the men who still believe they mould public opinion to suit their whims planned the diet which their 3,250,000 readers will have placed in front of them each day.

Notoriously Tory, Pennsylvania publishers who plumped 80 percent for Landon and saw him win but 40 percent of the State's popular vote, did their best to forget this blow at their prestige, hoped their readers would also forgive & forget.

Thus it was not strange that the first piece of business was a lame explanation of the reader revolt by Editor Floyd Chalfant of the Waynebore *Record-Herald,* hand-picked as next PNPA president. No fool, Editor Chalfant did not attempt to explain away the vote ratio, chose instead the editorial ratio, claiming that the political policies of Pennsylvania's press were 60-40 for Landon, instead of the popularly quoted 80-20. Aside from the several papers which have switched names since the election, it was the first concerted move in an attempt to regain the press's prestige.

**Consumer Cooperatives.** Meantime editors trained the guns on a New Deal-encouraged movement which may affect their revenues. PNPA's chief lobbyist, William N. Hardy, told publishers their greatest threat was the rise of consumer cooperatives. One of the most efficient means of distribution available to the common man, consumer cooperatives were outlawed from PNPA members' news columns. PNPA magnanimously offered to report their doings at the usual advertising rates. Behind this was the fear that cooperatives would cut into advertising revenue.

**Advertising.** While publishers prattled of "truth in advertising," they wanted no Federal truth-in-advertising standards, see in Federal fair-practice legislation (particularly on food & drug advertising, a large part of newspaper volume) a serious threat to their revenues. In the last Congress newspapers helped emasculate the pure food & drug bill.

Last week PNPA members believed advertisers were ready for increased advertising rates. They hope soon to adopt a general 3c-per-copy price for their news. Advertisers are generally less resentful of increases than readers: publishers who have tried the 3c-rate reported a near 25 percent loss of circulation which generally takes two years to recoup.

**Premiums.** A ban on the use of insurance policies as circulation premiums *(see below)* has ended one of the best reader baits. Circulation managers now use cheap editions of books, pots & pans, safety razors. Conservative papers dislike premiums (the Philadelphia *Bulletin* never uses them), but are often forced into it by keen competition. While premiums are generally sold at cost, circulation managers know that the public snaps up anything that looks like a bargain. One reason for the increased use of books as premiums is that book stores are small advertisers. Loss of their advertising through this unfair competition and the resultant stagnation of the book market is not regarded as serious.

**Wire Services.** Bitterest rivalry for newspaper patronage is among the wire services. The closest monopoly is the Associated Press, operated on a cooperative basis, its services not for sale save to members who are voted into the organization. The best morning service, until recently its copy was colorless, often editorialized by the member-newspapers which act as its correspondents, save in metropolitan areas. AP serves 61 dailies in the State.

PNPA PRESIDENT CHALFANT, EX-PRESIDENT MANSFIELD
*They smiled at a reign destined for fatter editions and fatter wallets.*

Best afternoon service is the United Press, an affiliate of the Scripps-Howard chain. Breezy, more impartial in its stories than AP, UP usually sells to any newspaper that pays the price. It has 70 clients in the State, furnished best coverage on the Wallis Simpson-Edward VIII amour.

Hearstian International News is accused of the most flagrant editorializing. It "peps up" its stories, pays more attention to the sex angle on stories. INS serves some 30 papers, has of recent years been regarded as one of the best news sources out of Harrisburg.

Few newspapers are wealthy enough to afford all three services. But when competition threatens, a publisher may buy up the services on an exclusive basis.

**Journalism Schools.** Veteran newspapermen despise schools of journalism, but publishers who look on them as sources of supply for cheap newshawks have of late increased their friendliness toward schools. This year PNPA members aranged for a $150 scholarship at Penn State's School of Journalism, are working to find jobs for journalism graduates to encourage more students to turn to journalism for a livelihood.

Editor William D. Mansfield of the enterprising McKeesport *Daily News,* retiring PNPA president, knew from smiling faces that Pennsylvania's press again waxed fat from increased advertising revenue. Newly elected president Chalfant's reign seemed destined for fatter editions, fatter wallets.

With only member newspapers eligible to compete, PNPA classed as best, worthy of silver loving cups, the following papers:

Large dailies—best front page and pictures, Scranton *Republican;* best editorial page, Lancaster *New Era;* best production, Wilkes-Barre *Times-Leader;* best sports, Wilkes-Barre *Record.*

"Small" and "Smallest" dailies—front page, Sunbury *Daily,* Titusville *Herald;* editorial page, Sharon *Herald,* Lock Haven *Express;* production, Norristown *Times-Herald,* Towanda *Daily Revue;* sports, Norristown *Times-Herald,* Main Line *Daily Times;* pictures, Bloomsburg *Morning Express,* Main Line *Daily Times*

Large and Small weeklies—front page, Westinghouse Valley *News* (for page announcing make-up), Clarion *Republican;* editorial, Brookville *American,* Clarion *Republican;* production, Brookville *American,* Hamburg *Item.*

## *Insurance Out*

Ice and fish sometimes come wrapped in a newspaper. So did insurance—until last week. Favorite device of Pennsylvania newspapers to promote subscriptions has been to offer life or accident insurance at reduced rates as a come-on. With results that spelled joy to its business department, the Philadelphia *Record,* for example, persistently ran the following display:

"To secure the *Record*-North American $10,000 Accident Insurance Policy, cut out and fill in the application below and send it with registered fee of $1 to *Record* Insurance Department." Immediately above was the inevitable dotted line: "I hereby certify that I am or will become a reader of the Philadelphia *Record.*"

Previously Insurance Commissioner Owen B. Hunt and the *Record* tangled over Philadelphia Dr. C. Dudley Saul's group medicine service, which Commissioner Hunt considered an insurance scheme which came under his jurisdiction. The *Record* hinted broadly that Commissioner Hunt was being influenced by the American Medical Association. Last week Commissioner Hunt gave the *Record* another cause for thought.

Ruling that such an inducement violates the State Insurance Code, Commissioner Owen B. Hunt memorandumed a flat prohibition of the use of cut-rate insurance policies as subscription-bait.

In spite of its long acceptance as a newspaper standby (Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* readers last month could renew their $1 policies for a third year), the practice, ruled Mr. Hunt, collides head-on with Section 353, which provides: "Discrimination between individuals of the same class in the amount of premium or rates charged for any policy of life or accident . . insurance . is prohibited." Further, with Section 635: "No insurance agent or other party shall offer . . . any other valuable consideration which is not specified in the policy . . . or other thing of value, as inducement to insurance."

While no doubt flattered that the Department should regard subscriptions to their papers as "a valuable consideration," harassed publishers wondered what they could try next. Fast approaching the saturation point is the book inducement. To cite the *Record* again, subscriptions sugar-coated with 2-volume dictionaries, 20-volume works of Charles Dickens, and currently sets of Mark Twain, have been worked to the limit of reader-literacy. Similarly, the Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph* has been giving away whole libraries, while the Philadelphia *Inquirer* continues to push "World Famous Literature" at the bargain price of 36c.

In search of a loophole, publishers all over the State conned the Commissioner's edict, which provides that all policies available to a subscriber must be available to a non-subscriber at the same price; that applications for policies and for subscriptions must be entirely separate; that, since the insurance company is completely responsible for the insurance, the policy cannot mention the paper.

Chief complainer against the newspaper-insurance combination has been the duly licensed agent, who has grumbled that the set-up lets every doorbell-ringing subscription solicitor compete with him.

Dangerous also, according to the Commissioner, is the tendency of the set-up to encourage price-cutting; unrestricted competition among companies in regard to rates might jeopardize the stability of the insurance system.

Shrewd Publisher Moe Annenberg (Philadelphia *Inquirer*) is No. 1 loophole finder. Come-on in the *Inquirer* reads: "For merely agreeing to take the DAILY INQUIRER for ONE YEAR you get this $10,000 Accident Policy FREE" (capitals are the *Inquirer's*).

With the price of the insurance cut to zero, the difference between price-cutting and outright gift-giving becomes a technical question.

Legality of the *Inquirer's* device is up to legal-shark Attorney General Charles J. Margiotti. Possibility is that he will permit it, while broadly sustaining Commissioner Hunt's ruling. Second possibility is that he will reject the entire memorandum. If it can be shown that the set-up resembles group insurance plans, in which an employer pays part of the premium, insurance may continue to come wrapped in a newspaper.

# AGRICULTURE

*Big Show*

Because January is one of the dreariest months in the farmer's year and because nothing but routine indoor chores keep him occupied, the men who run Pennsylvania's mammoth Farm Products Show annually stage the spectacle at this time of year in Harrisburg.

Best time of year for the farmer, it is also the best time of year for Winter's wildest antics. Each of the previous shows has encountered stormy weather. This year was no exception.

Despite a light drizzle, few show enthusiasts were disheartened to the point of staying away. Some 85,000 set a new opening-day record for attendance. A new all-time high was established the second day when, with temperatures through-

BEAUTY BATH

*In a corner shower-room, baths for cows.*

out the state flirting with the sixties, 125,000 visitors led show people to believe total attendance would exceed 400,000. (Best previous year was 1934; attendance, 287,000.)

As expected, the show's good weather and good luck ended. Sleet, rain, fog, snow combined to make travel difficult, kept thousands at home. But those who managed to see the show were well repaid.

In addition to 10,656 farm products competing for $40,000 and blue ribbons, spectators found commercial exhibits equally interesting. Stream-lined tractors, ingenious seed drills, the latest wrinkles aimed at increasing production kept males well occupied.

More domestic were the attractions which engrossed women. Most elaborate commercial display was given over to electrical appliances; biggest single exhibit, an all-electric kitchen done in pastels, chromium-plate with gaudy oiled silk curtains framing bogus windows.

**Predatory Monopolies.** Last important group to obtain the benefits of electricity, few farm women are vain enough to dream of an electrical kitchen, few men of electrically-equipped farms. For power companies demand exhorbitant fees for lines, high rates for serving the current. Usually only wealthy farmers can afford this rural luxury.

Under the New Deal's Rural Electrification Administration, cheap electricity for every farm is a goal which the Administration hopes to reach. In the state, REA's efforts along these lines have been sabotaged, made little headway. One of the men accused of keeping cheap electricity from Pennsylvania farmers was oddly enough a member of the commission which controls the Farm Show, M. S. McDowell, Director of Agricultural Extension at Pennsylvania State College, and contact man for the deceased Joint Committee for Rural Electrification, now disbanded by order of Governor George H. Earle.

Eager to be in Washington to attend President Roosevelt's inaugural, Governor Earle spoke to a Farm Show audience at noon on the opening day instead of at the formal opening that night. For farm consumption, his speech was a blast at power companies.

Pennsylvania power's "Big Four" (Associated Gas & Electric, Pennsylvania Power & Light, Philadelphia Electric and Duquesne Light companies) will either provide real rural electrification for Pennsylvania's farmers or step aside for someone who will, the Governor warned in branding the companies "predatory monopolies"

Least responsive to oratory of any state group, farmer's applause accorded the Governor for "going to bat" for his audience was lukewarm, undemonstrative.

**Wallace.** Seven hours later, with the Governor busy renewing acquaintances at Washington with other National Convention figures, President Ralph D. Hetzel of Penn State formally opened the show. Next day, the spotlight fell on U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, who heartened state farmers by assuring them farm benefits would be granted all farmers—big & little, good, bad and middlin'

Extremely good natured, despite the congestion, Show visitors showed little preference for any single exhibit, walked miles over

SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE

*Pennsylvania's Secretary French heard U. S.'s Secretary Wallace assure benefits to farmers big & little.*

hard concrete floors to view them all. Among the sights which pleased them most:

**Prize winners.** York manufacturer Forry Laucks' 7-year-old, 2,800 lb. four-time grand champion Holstein bull, King of Lauxmont.

Grand champion Orient du Bouchon, 2,100-pound Belgian stallion, and stablemate Caesarine du Bouchon, grand champion Belgian mare, less bulky but every inch as much horse. (Owner: Hallmede Farms, Beaver.)

Mary Lou, grand champion Chester White sow, 525 pounds of thoroughbred swine. (Owner: C. E. Cassel & son, Hershey.)

The Governor's red-breasted Bantam cock, a first prize winner, and his third-prize hen.

Buttercup of Riverside, a 16-year-old Guernsey cow, which earned her mirrored stall by producing in her lifetime more than 122,000 pounds of milk, 5,800 pounds of butter fat. (Show cow sponsored by the Guernsey Breeders' Assn.)

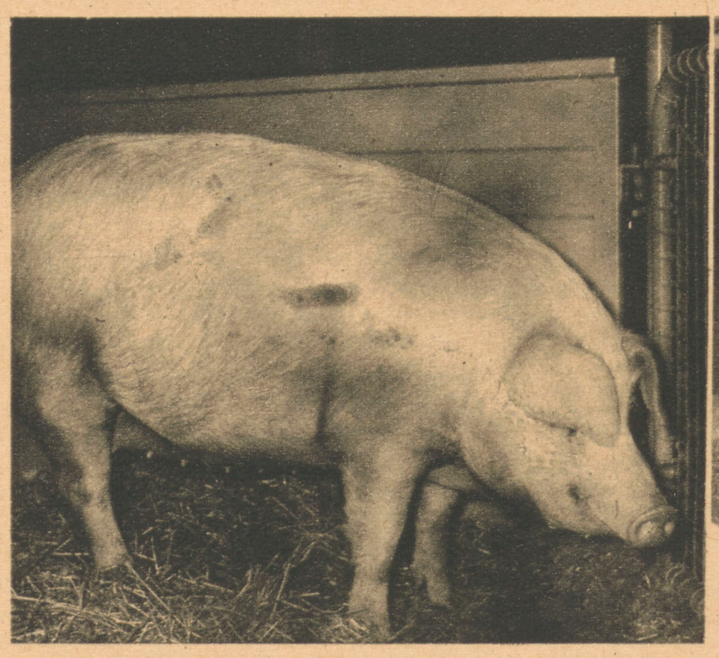
Not expected nor unexpected were nearly two dozen calves born during the show. High birth rate among dairy cattle is explained by the fact that many farmers breed their cows to freshen about this time.

Despite free admission, Farm Show visitors found it no different from any county fair, spent many a nickel for hot dogs, pop, baked potatoes, many a dollar for potted plants, other domestic frills.

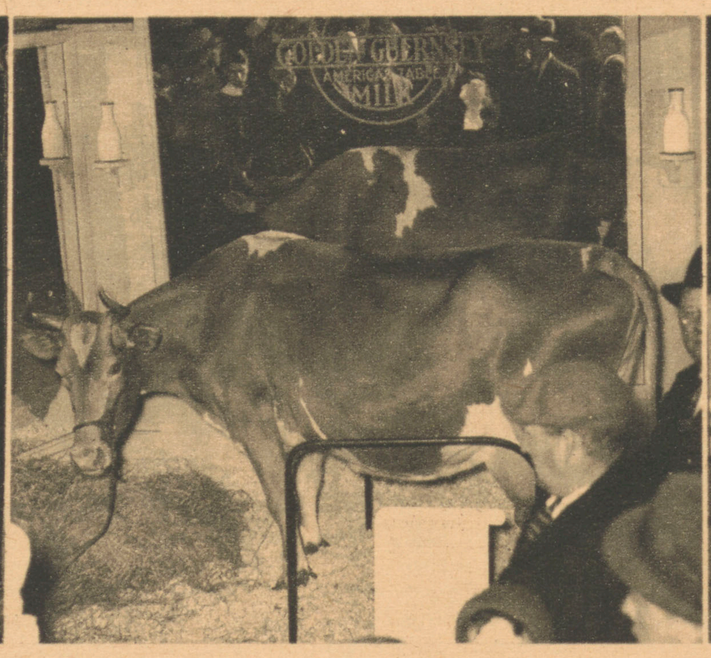
Free for the asking were the gallons of milk produced by 400 dairy cattle. Much of it went to the hospitals, charity homes. No small amount went into the stomachs of unaccompanied youngsters who found the barns the Show's nicest feature.

Biggest bargain night of the year for Harrisburg housewives occurred Friday when fruit, vegetables, eggs, etc., entered in the competitions were sold for anything they might bring.

Enterprising hotels and butchers bought for slaughter many of the blue ribbon cattle, swine and sheep. A good merchandising stunt, occasionally it is overdone. Three years ago, a state chain purchased one steer, sold allegedly "Farm Show prize-winning beef" in each of a dozen shops for nearly two weeks, finally forced Department of Labor and Industry inspectors to step in and call a halt after several carloads of cheap, western steers were sold at a fancy price.

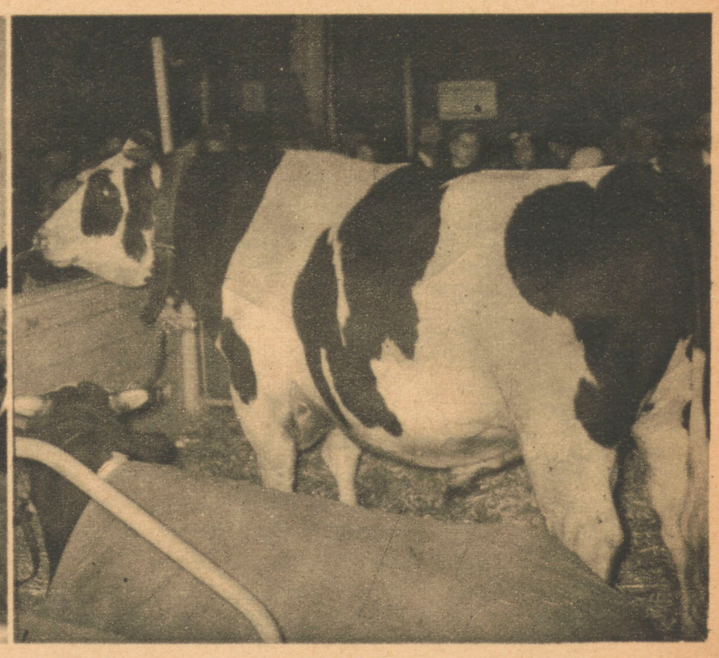


*Mary Lou, grand champion Chester White sow—525 lbs.*




BESTS AT THE SHOW

*Buttercup of Riveredge has produced 122,879 lbs. of milk in her 16 years.*



*Holstein bull: Four-time grand champion, King of Lauxmount.*

# MISCELLANY

*City Farmers*

In Pittsburgh, Lecturer Arthur C. Pillsbury told how city dwellers may some day grow all the flowers and vegetables they need in excelsior spread over a wire net, covering a tank of root-feeding chemicals.

Said Dr. Pillsbury, in effect: "No soil is needed. In a three-by-four foot tank, I have grown enough potatoes to feed a small family for a year. In space half the size of an ordinary room, I've grown a ton of tomatoes."

To Horticulturist Pillsbury, a successful experiment is one that yields 10 times the normal crop. Soil-less planters have been operating for two years, he said.

*Pennsylvania Anthem*

No less than 22 composers have knocked on the doors of the State Legislature, clutching in their hands sheet music they wanted adopted as the anthem of the Commonwealth. Latest knocker is Joe Francis Weber, of Scranton, whose song title, *Pennsylvania,* is the same as that of eight other numbers on file.

*Steel Slicer*

In Homestead, feature of the newly opened U. S. Steel plant was an 80-ton rocking shear, solution to the costly problem of cutting steel without curling it, designed by Engineer A. W. Sodenberg. He got the idea while idly watching the rolling motion of a rocking chair.

*On the Nose*

All set to tap a keg of beer, Joseph Burke had his nose fractured for the fourth time when a plunger blew from the barrel, hit him square on the proboscis. Steward of a Shamokin cafe, Burke acquired the previous three fractures as a star on local football fields.

*Public Thanks*

Governor Earle added his thanks to those of the debt-free employes of Harvey Gravell, of Ambler, whose $100,000 Christmas gift to his workers was distributed according to the total in red ink on the books of each one.

*Help Wanted*

Weariest man in Harrisburg last week was Assemblyman John L. Powers of Pittsburgh, besieged by job seekers responding to a "secretary wanted" ad in a capital newspeper, advising applicants to see the legislator. Jokester friends of Powers, who wants no secretary, inserted the ad.

*Unhappy Hunting Ground*

In ominous-sounding Hell's Funnel, Lancaster County, Assessor Dave Myers announced that, legend to the contrary, there are no ghosts in the region. Named for the odd formation of its woodlands, Hell's Funnel has for decades been a hunting ground for spirit seekers, lured by an ancient myth. "Mysterious" explosions that broke up a recent expedition proved to have come from the shotgun of Myers' mischievous grandson.

*Little Mother*

To Pittsburgh neighbors 7-year-old Caroline Rodgers was known as "Little Mother" for the grown-up way she minded her four little brothers and sisters. Hurrying home from school to help her bed-ridden mother last week, Caroline was was struck down by a truck, killed.

*Vigilantes*

A rape scare that spread through a Philadelphia community after four women were assaulted in two weeks caused Darby High School Principal J. Wallace Saner to ask male students to escort girls to and from school, be on the lookout for suspicious characters.

*Better Man*

In a Philadelphia police court a dejected husband who accused an 85-year-old neighbor of cuckolding him was sent home by the judge, advised to read *Gunga Din* ("You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din.")

*Villain Beware!*

Social note from Emilie, Pa.: "The Emilie Preservance Company for the Detection of Horse Thieves and other Villains and the Recovery of Stolen Horses and Other Property held a meeting in the Emilie public school house Saturday."

*Film Test*

Peeved by courtroom questioning of his diagnosis, Dr. J. M. Johnston, amateur cameraman, announced in Pittsburgh that henceforth he will make movies of all drivers brought to him for intoxication tests.

*Trolley Camp*

What to do with slum dwellers while their homes are being razed, new ones built, proved no problem to Philadelphia Mayor S. Davis Wilson. Using two-plus-two logic, he decided to borrow 150 abandoned street cars, establish a "trolley camp" along the lines of the trailer camps, let the unhoused citizens live there until the new buildings are up.

*Wild Kids*

Sentencing two Philadelphia youths, 16 and 17, to Huntington Reformatory for car thefts and vandalism, Judge Joseph L. Kun remarked: "They are just a couple of wild kids and should be chained up somewhere".

*Spring*

A blooming orchard last week beat the first robin in Shamokin where Horticulturist Ellsworth Adams proudly watched buds burst from the branches of his fruit tree.

*At the Bar*

Up for sentence in a Uniontown courtroom, muddled Wesley Pinchock knelt before the judge, arose when ordered, knelt again, arose when ordered, knelt again, had to be lifted and held erect by tipstaves summoned by the exasperated jurist. Charged with wife-beating, drunkeness, setting fire to his home, Pinchock was freed on probation.

*Two Deaths*

A fatal auto accident involving one of his employes made Allan G. Hack, Shamokin hardware company president, defendant in a $50,000 damage suit. Bound for the trial at Sunbury, Hack died of a heart attack at the wheel of his car.

*Up His Sleeve*

Fearful of losing his Social Security card & number, Bus-driver Thomas Gallenstein of Erie went to a tatoo parlor, had the digits permanently recorded on his arm.

*Sale*

A hose cart owned by the Sellersville Fire Company for 150 years, used for 125 years, was bought by a Philadelphia fire insurance company for $150.

*Boys in a Boat*

Many a city boy would trade a dozen trips to the movies for the week-end adventure of five Bradford youngsters, all under 16, neighborhood heroes as a result of their brave bout with the racing waters of the flooded Juniata River.

Up before sunrise on a school-free Saturday, the five launched their home-made boat on the racing stream, rode its foamy crest until darkness caused them to land at Hopewell, 50 miles away. Abandoning their craft, they found a friendly farmer with a hayloft, slept there, hiked back to Bradford next day, got home on time for Sunday dinner.

*Four Beers*

Mrs. Margaret Colem didn't intend to stay when she called at the Mercer County Jail in Sharon. Police detained her when suspicious bulges in her clothing proved to be four cans of beer. She was accused of trying to smuggle them to a prisoner friend, King Adams, in jail for six months for a liquor violation.

*Latest Thing*

For uniform-conscious maidens of the Commonwealth a new thrill was in the making through an order from the State Highway Patrol head, Capt. Charles H. Quarles. The order: for 642 blue outfits to smarten up his highway hawks.

*Greatly Exaggerated*

Listed among the World War dead on a bronze plaque in Pittsburgh is the name of John Fay Austin, who still drops around to take a look at it every once in a while and thank his lucky stars it's a typographical error.

*Innocent Bystanders*

In Philadelphia the innocent bystanders finally got a break. About 20 of them who saw a trolley car hit a beer truck carried home 15 cases of brew, several small kegs.

*Last Words*

No truer words were ever spoken by Leechburg Police Chief Martin M. O'Lear than his last ones. Pointing his service revolver at his temple, he murmured to his wife, "This is the end," and pulled the trigger.

*No Prison*

Iron bars stood between William McGuire and Theresa Grike as they clasped hands to be joined in wedlock by a Philadelphia magistrate. The ceremony was performed at the main gate of a storage battery plant behind which McGuire is self-imprisoned in a sit-down strike.

# CHANGE

**Appointed.** A committee to study problems of State personnel and living costs of state employes; by Governor Earle. Members: Insurance Commissioner Owen B. Hunt, Revenue Secretary John B. Kelly, Highways Secretary Warren Van Dyke, Secretary of Property and Supplies Arthur Colegrove and Assistant Secretary to the Governor John Sullivan.

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**Appointed.** Dr. Lewis Frederick Pilcher, professor of architecture at Penn State College, architectural editor of the *Encyclopedia Americana;* to be member of the State Planning Board.

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**Appointed.** John J. Kennedy, to be Special Assistant City Solicitor for Pittsburgh, $8,000-a-year post formerly filled by Thomas M. Benner, resigned.

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**Appointed.** Joseph C. Reing, 31, of Mahanoy City; to be United States Marshall in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, succeeding his father, the late Joseph B. Reing, who died December 11.

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**Appointed.** Detective Walter Monaghan, figure and investigator in Pittsburgh's sensational Westwood murder case; to be Pittsburgh police inspector.

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**Appointed.** Detective Charles S. White of York, to special duty in Washington during the inauguration. Since the inauguration of President McKinley, Detective White has performed similar duties at each succeeding presidential inauguration.

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**Promoted.** Capt. Calvin Davis, Huntingdon, 103rd quartermaster regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard; to major, assigned to First battalion headquarters of the same regiment at Harrisburg; Second Lieutenant William T. Martin, Jr., Company H, 112th infantry, Erie, to first lieutenant of same company.

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**Home.** Capt. E. G. Hamilton, Carnegie Tech graduate, on leave of absence from his French Foreign Legion regiment in Algeria; for a visit with his family in New Castle, first in six years.

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**Resigned.** James J. Long, dean of Pittsburgh sports writers, from the staff of the Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph;* to become publicity director of the Pittsburgh National League baseball team (The Pirates).

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**Resigned.** Thomas L. Evans, assistant relief director and financial aide of SERB Director de Schweinitz; to become comptroller of Philadelphia's Snellenburg department store. His successor is David W. Wallace of Ardmore.

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**Elected.** Pittsburghers Clarance Stanley, president of the Union Trust Co., and Lawrence N. Murray, vice president of the Mellon National Bank; to the board of directors of Koppers United Company, Mellon-controlled holding company, of fabulous Koppers Company, its subsidiaries, divisions and affiliates, and of Eastern Gas and Fuel Associates.

**Elected.** D. Cress Reilly as president of the Bedford County Bar Association.

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**Elected.** Dr. Thomas C. Zulick, Jr. of Easton as president of the Northampton County Medical Society.

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**Elected.** Dr. Sterling L. Harvey of Easton as president of the Lehigh Valley Osteopathic Society.

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**Elected.** Ralph H. Schatz of Allentown as president of the Lehigh County Bar Association.

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**Elected.** Kermit McFarland, political writer of the Pittsburgh *Press;* to be president of the 41-year-old Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents' Association, composed of

NEWSHAWK MCFARLAND
*Heads the 41-year-old Legislative Correspondents' Association.*

32 newspapermen who cover the sessions of the General Assembly.

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**Elected.** Philip C. Staples, president of Bell Telephone Co. of Penna.; to be president of Philadelphia's Franklin Institute.

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**Elected.** Floyd Chalfant, publisher of the Waynesboro *Record Herald;* to be president of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association, at Harrisburg. He succeeds William D. Mansfield, publisher of the McKeesport *News* *(see Page 18).*

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**Confirmed.** Reappointment of members of the State Athletic Commission: Eddie McCloskey, ex-pugilist, ex-Mayor of Johnstown; William D. McClelland, Pittsburgh dentist; Joseph H. Rainey, Philadelphia; by the Senate.

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**Feted.** Edward Kosa, 15, of Ulysses, Potter County; champion of the 1936 Keystone 400 Bushel Potato Club (he grew 605 bushels to an acre); by the Potato Growers Association at Harrisburg.

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**Honored.** Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, war pilot and Eastern Air Lines manager; by Philadelphia's Poor Richard Club, with its gold medal award to the citizen "whose life and interests best typify advancement in some field of endeavor."

**Issued.** Volume 82 of the Pennsylvania Manual, 1,193 pages of facts and figures covering the Commonwealth; by the Bureau of Publications, at Harrisburg.

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**Ill.** Utilities Magnate Henry L. Doherty, in Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, with throat trouble. Despite a general "Do Not Disturb" order, a Philadelphia newshawk reported to the *Public Ledger* that Doherty occupied a ten-room apartment on the top floor of the hospital, had a private sun parlor and sun deck, two chauffeur-manned sedans on call all day. Unconfirmed was a report that the street in front of the hospital was recently paved to quiet Tycoon Doherty's complaints of rumbling traffic.

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**To Wed.** Mrs. Mary Browder Lynch, pretty Washington divorcee, sister of Mrs. George H. Earle; and Thomas R. Wickersham, Harrisburg, attorney and former Republican Assemblyman; in the Executive

MRS. MARY LYNCH
*The Governor's sister-in-law emulated two older romances.*

Mansion at Harrisburg, February 2. Announcement of the pending union of a member of one of the nation's best known New Deal families with a member of one of the nation's best known Tory organizations arched eyebrows much as did the recent news of the Roosevelt-DuPont engagement, the less recent news of the Romeo-Juliet affair in the houses of Capulet and Montagu.

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**Wed.** Ann Harding, blonde film star, former Pittsburgh stock company actress; to Werner Jenssen, composer and orchestra conductor; in London. Most interested spectator: Jane, Pittsburgh-born (7 years ago) daughter of the bride and Harry Bannister. In Pittsburgh Harry Bannister and Ann Harding were leads in the stock company. When she became a movie star, they separated. In 1932 they were divorced, Ann Harding settling $100,000 on her ex-husband. Last year year ex-Husband Bannister attempted to prevent Miss Harding from taking their daughter to England. Under court order, Jane must be back in California by June 10. Jane's comment on the wedding: "Mummy's married, Mummy's married!"

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**Born.** To Mrs. Dorothy Bonser, in Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia; a son, George S. (for Sitdown) Bonser; while Father Bonser paced the floor of a Philadelphia hosiery mill where he is a sitdown striker.

**Died.** Howard White, of Peckville, National Broadcasting Company pianist and music arranger; of a heart attack in his New York apartment while rehearsing a radio act.

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**Died.** Dr. Charles P. H. Nason, 94, Civil War veteran, churchman, former American consul at Grenoble, France, authority on the life of Joan of Arc; at Philadelphia, after a brief illness.

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**Died.** Harry W. Wilson, 73, organizer of the Indiana County Gas Company, oil executive, president of the Farmers Bank & Trust Co. of Indiana, Trustee of Indiana State Teachers College; in Baltimore, Md., after a long illness.

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**Died.** William D. Gherky, former research associate of Thomas Edison, supervisor of the installation of underground electrical distribution in New York, Philadelphia manufacturer and consulting engineer; of a heart attack at Philadelphia.

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**Died.** John E. Hootman, 76, great-grandson of Benjamin Parkinson, founder of Monongahela; at his home in Strabane, Washington County, after a five-year illness.

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**Died.** Sister Mary Athanasia (Hintenach), Order of St. Benedict nun for 43 years; at St. Benedict's Convent, Erie.

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**Died.** Francis Rawle Wadleigh, 72, Federal fuel distributor under President Harding, former Philadelphia consulting engineer, widely known coal authority, one-time member of the Pennsylvania Conservation Board; at his home in Alexandria, Va.

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**Died.** Christian D. Aldinger, 86, pioneer oil man of Meridian; at Butler Hospital.

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**Died.** Henry Kepple Beck, portrait painter and illustrator; of a heart attack in his home at Camp Hill, near Harrisburg.

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**Died.** Capt. Louis Olean Hays, Sr., 87, veteran Pittsburgh riverman; on his farm at Valencia, Butler County.

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**Died.** Councilman John D. Evans, of McKeesport; at his home after a month's illness.

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**Died.** Prof. Charles Martin Lesher, 73, retired (10 years ago) head of the commercial department of Carbondale High School, father of Carbondale Councilman George J. Lesher; at his home in Carbondale.

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**Died.** Father William Vilchinsky, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Coupon; in Mercy Hospital, Altoona, after a four months' illness. Ordained in Budapest, Father Vilchinsky served with the Hungarian army as a captain-chaplain during the World War, taught after the Armistice at the University of Iglo, Hungary, was assigned to the Altoona diocese upon his arrival in America.

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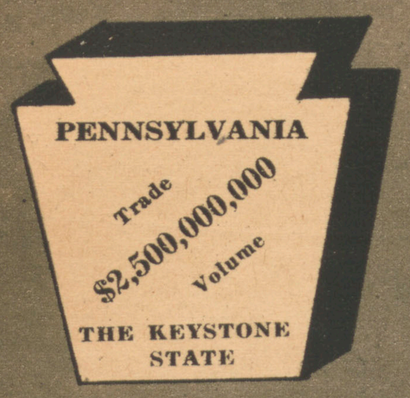
**Died.** Miss Marion Abbott, 71, known to theater audiences for 37 years, star of many a Charles Frohman and David Belasco production, portrayer of character roles with E. H. Sothern, Otis Skinner, William Gillette; of pneumonia in Hahnemann Hospital, Philadelphia.

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